

Your Every-day Vocabulary

HOW TO ENLARGE IT

ALPHABETIC LIST

BY

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P. 21—*Affluence* should read; 'Accent on *af*; *Au*—
like *No.* P. 46—*Bagio* should read: *Baguio* (accent on
quite *Bag*; *e* as in *bel*; *o* as in *old*)

These words of scientific and exceptional use
are introduced more especially as reference.

RY:

HOW TO ENLARGE IT

THE GOLDEN RULE IN SPOKEN OR WRITTEN LANGUAGE.

—Use THE WORD,—ANGLO-SAXON OR LATIN
DERIVATIVE,—THAT WILL BEST
EXPRESS YOUR MEANING.

There is no reason why the speaker should not have the same
comprehensive vocabulary as the writer. Choose words as
you would your clothes, selecting some for their beauty,
others for their richness, others for their general
utility, always keeping in mind that, like one's
garments, the words should be appropriate
to the occasion. (From *How Can I In-
crease My Vocabulary?*)

is a stronger word than *confuse*, but
strong as *confound*. It means to confuse
confound by a sudden consciousness of guilt,
error, or inferiority:

“He stood *abashed* before the King.”

Neither have I incurred, or done anything to
incur, with Defoe, that hideous disfigurement,
which constrained him to draw upon assurance
—to feel—“quite *unabashed*,” and at ease upon
that article. I was never, I thank my stars, in
the pillory; nor, if I read them aright, is it
within the compass of my destiny, that I ever
should be.—*Charles Lamb*.

Abdicate.

Abdicate means to give up, renounce, abandon:

He [Charles II] was utterly without ambi-
tion. He detested business, and would sooner
have *abdicated* his crown than have undergone
the trouble of really directing the administra-
tion.—*Macaulay*.

Aberration.

Aberration (accent on *ra*; *a* as in *ate*) means a deviation.

"His temporary *aberration* from moral rectitude was of short duration."

Abet.

Abet means to encourage by aid or approval; it is chiefly used in a bad sense and is followed by a personal object:

"He would not *abet* his friend in his wrongdoing; on the other hand, he did all that he could to dissuade him from his course."

Abject.

Abject (accent on the first syllable) means low in condition or in estimation; so low as to be hopeless:

"He died in *abject* poverty and disgrace."

Abjure.

Abjure (ab-joor; accent on the second syllable) means especially to renounce with solemnity:

"He *abjured* his former practices and became a great and noble man."

Abnegate.

Abnegate (accent on *ab*) means to surrender one's self to anything; to renounce a right or privilege:

"He *abnegated* his own rights in favor of his brother."

Abnegation.

Abnegation (accent on *ga*) means the act of abnegating:

"Love is the *abnegation* and forgetfulness of self."

They wrong man greatly who say he is to be

seduced by ease. Difficulty, *abnegation*, martyrdom, death, are the allurements that act on man.—*Carlyle*.

Aboriginal.

Aboriginal (accent on *ig*), meaning existing from the origin or beginning as, “aboriginal people,”—the first known to history,—becomes, by extension, to mean, simple, primitive, unsophisticated:

There are doubtless many *aboriginal* minds by which no other conclusion is conceivable.

—*Herbert Spencer*.

Abortive.

Abortive, in one of its senses, means coming to naught:

“All his plans proved *abortive*.”

An enterprise, undertaken without resolution, managed without care, prosecuted without vigor, will easily be dashed and prove *abortive*.—*Barrow Sermons*.

Abrade.

Abrade (accent on *rade*) means to rub or wear away:

“Dusty and red walls and *abraded* towers.”

Abrasion.

Abrasion means the act of abrading.

It is one of the most curious phenomena of language that words are as subject as coin to defacement and *abrasion*.—*G. P. Marsh*.

Absolve.

Absolve means: (1) To set free or release as from some duty, obligation, or responsibility; (2) to free from the consequences of; acquit:

(1) No amount of erudition or technical skill

or critical power can *absolve* the mind from the necessity of creating, if it would grow.

— *W. K. Clifford.*

(2) “He was *absolved* from all blame in the matter.”

Abstention.

Abstention means *abstinence* from action; refraining to do:

“This *abstention* of her daily habit of exercising in the open air, caused her gradually to lose all desire for outdoor life.”

“An *abstention*, even of short duration, from a daily habit, weakens the desire for the activity to which one had become accustomed.”

Abstract and Concrete.

Abstract (noun; accent on *ab*) means the essence or quality considered apart from the material; that which concentrates in itself the essential qualities of anything more extensive or more general, or of several things the essence.

Concrete (accent on the first syllable; *e* in *crete* like *e* in *need*) means the actual or material.

In logic, when considering the *abstract*, the mind diverts the qualities or features from the thing itself; it conceives apart from matter or special circumstances or particular applications, and arrives at general principles and meanings:

Were all things red, the conception of color in the *abstract* could not exist.

—*Herbert Spencer.*

Women are always turning from the *abstract* to the individual and feeling where the philosopher only thinks.—*Harriet B. Stowe.*

In grammar the term *abstract* applies to the quality apart from the thing; it applies to the conception of some generality as apart from the individual. Thus, the adjective *good* as thought of concretely, and as applied to a child ("a *good* child") when used in the abstract, becomes *goodness*; the concrete adjectives *sad*, *happy*, *glad*, when considered apart from the individual, become abstract nouns—*sadness*, *happiness*, *gladness*.

Abstract (verb; accent on the second syllable) means to *take from*:

"Some persons seem to have the happy faculty of *abstracting* only joy from life; others, only misery."

Abut.

Abut (accent on second syllable) means to touch at the end; join at a boundary; *rest on*, *upon*, or *against* before the object:

"The building *abuts* on the river;" "The land *abuts* upon his neighbors;" "The bridge *abuts* against the solid rock."

* "All these questions *abut* (rest) upon a physical law."

Accentuate.

Accentuate means to emphasize:

"In his remarks, he *accentuated* the importance of interest as a vital factor in concentration."

Acclimated.

Acclimate (accent on *kli*) means to become habituated to a foreign climate:

* "We soon became *acclimated*."

Accrescence and Accretion.

Accrescence (ak-kres-ens; accent on *kres*; *e* in

kres like *e* in *end*) and *accretion* (ak-kre-shun; accent on *kre*; *e* in *kre* like *e* in *feed*) mean an increase by natural growth; specifically, an increase by an accession of parts externally:

The silent *accrescence* of belief from the unwatched depositions of a general, never contradicted hearsay.—*Coleridge*.

“A language grows by *accretion* like the trunk of a tree, every year adding to it an external growth.”

A mineral or unorganized body can undergo no change save by the operation of mechanical or chemical forces; and any increase of its bulk is due to the addition of like particles to its exterior; it augments, not by growth, but by *accretion*.—*Owen*.

Accusatory.

Accusatory (accent on *cu*) means accusing:

“He paid no attention to the *accusatory* remarks, but walked out of the room.”

Acerbity.

Acerbity (accent on second syllable) means sourness, poignancy or severity.

It is ever a rule, that any over-great penalty, besides the *acerbity* of it, deadens the execution of the law.—*Bacon*.

Acme.

Acme (accent on the first syllable; *e* as in *me*) means the highest point:

The independence of the individual, the power to stand alone as regards men and the gods, is the *acme* of stoical statement.

—*I. P. Fisher*.

“When he became the governor of his own state, he reached the *acme* of his ambition.”

“It was the *acme* of human endeavor,—this reaching out for what proved to be the unattainable.”

When high color is harmonious and has richness at the same time, it is undoubtedly the *acme* of art in that respect.—*J. C. Vandyke*.

Acolyte.

Acolyte (accent on the first syllable; *lyte* like *lite*) means an attendant or assistant; also a novice:

*“She walked down the aisle attended by her two sisters like a queen followed by her faithful *acolytes*.”

Acoustics.

Acoustics (a-koos or a-kows tiks; accent on the second syllable) means the science of sound; the manner in which the sound is produced:

“The *acoustics* of the theater were so poor that it became necessary to alter the structure of the auditorium in order that the actors might be heard.”

Acquiesce.

Acquiesce (ak-wi-es; accent on the last syllable; *i* in *wi* like *i* in *it*) means to agree in an opinion; to assent quietly; as to *acquiesce* in an opinion, argument, or arrangement:

(In modern usage, *acquiesce* is generally followed by the preposition *in*; formerly, by *to* *with*, or *from*.)

“He *acquiesced* in all that was said.”

Acquiescence.

Acquiescence (accent on the third syllable) means silent submission or submission with apparent consent:

There is a certain grave *acquiescence* in ig-

norance, a recognition of our impotence to solve momentous and urgent questions, which has a satisfaction of its own.—*J. H. Newman.*

“Her habitual *acquiescence* in all matters great and small tends to make her appear naturally submissive; whereas at heart, she is extremely rebellious.”

Acquiescent.

Disposed to yield; submissive:

“She was naturally *acquiescent*, and so she readily came under the dominion of her elders.”

Acquisitive.

Acquisitive (a-kwiz-itiv; accent on the second syllable) means having a propensity to acquire:

“Having an inquiring and *acquisitive* mind, he soon came into possession of a large number of facts.”

The first condition then of mental development is that the attitude of the mind should be creative rather than *acquisitive*.

—*W. K. Clifford.*

Acquisitiveness.

The quality of being acquisitive:

(In phrenology, *acquisitiveness* is the organ to which is attributed the function of producing the general desire to acquire and possess, apart from the uses of the objects. It is sometimes called covetiveness.)

“He was lacking in that kind of *acquisitiveness* that seeks to store up a knowledge of many facts, without regard to their utilitariness.”

Acrid.

Acrid (ak-rid; accent on the first syllable).—Sharp; stinging.

(Figuratively) ‘He had an *acrid* temper.’”

Acrimony.

Acrimony (accent on the first syllable; *o* in *mo* shortened in rapid utterance almost to the sound of *u* in *us*).—Sharpness or severity of temper; ill nature; virulence.

In his official letters he expressed with great *acrimony* his contempt for the King’s character and understanding.—*Macaulay*.

Activity.

Activity is the state of being active:

The *activities* of sentient beings are perpetually directed to averting pain and attracting pleasure.—*L. F. Ward*.

Actuality.

Actuality (accent on the third syllable; *t* is variable to *ch*).—The state of being actual, as opposed to potentiality; existence, as opposed to ideality; that in which anything is realized:

George Sand says neatly, “Art is not a study of positive reality (*actuality* were the fitter word), but a seeking after ideal truth.”

—*Lowell*.

“The *actuality* of her present condition is certainly in strong contrast with what she had expected it to be.”

Actuate.

Actuate (accent on the first syllable; *t* is variable to *ch*) means to put into action; move or incite to action:

“*Actuated* by these motives, he immediately set to work to formulate a plan of relief.”

Those whom their superior talents had dei-

fied, were found to be still *actuated* by the most brutal passions of human nature.—*Goldsmith*.

(To *actuate* is merely to call into action without regard to the actuating force. *Impel* is a stronger word and expresses more passion, haste, urgency. *Induce* is not so strong as either *actuate* or *impel*, and implies the idea of effort to persuade by presenting motives; it is also used where the persuasion is only figurative. *Incite*, *prompt*, and *instigate* are used only when motives irrespective of physical force are the actuating power. *Incite* is weaker than *impel* and stronger than *prompt*. *Instigate* (to goad on) is sometimes, but erroneously, used of incitement to good; it should be used only when the urging is toward evil.)

It is observed by Cicero that men of the greatest and most shining parts are the most *actuated* by ambition.—*Addison*.

Thus we see that human nature is *impelled* by affections of gratitude, esteem, veneration, joy, not to mention various others.—*Channing*.

"I was at last *induced* to go."

"*Incited* by the picture that his imagination drew, he set out to overcome his difficulties."

"*Prompted* by a feeling of timidity, he withdrew his arm."

With the education she had received, she could look on this strange interruption of her pilgrimage only as a special assault upon her faith, *instigated* by those evil spirits that are ever setting themselves in conflict with the just.

—*Mrs. Stowe*.

Acuity.

Acuity (a-ku-i-ti; accent on *ku*) means sharpness; acuteness:

“He was not endowed with *acuity* (or *acuteness*) of vision.”

Acumen.

Acumen (a-ku-men; accent on *ku*) means quickness of perception; the faculty of nice discrimination; mental acuteness or penetration; keenness of insight:

“He possessed a rare *acumen*, which made him able to place men immediately at their true valuations.”

Addiction and Addictedness.

Addiction (or *addictedness*) is the state of being given up to some habit, practice, or pursuit:

Southey, in a letter to William Taylor, protests, with much emphasis, against his *addiction* to words “which are so foreign as not to be even in Johnson’s farrago of a dictionary.

—*W. R. Grey.*

Additament.

Additament (accent on the first syllable; *i* in *it*; *a* varied to the sound of short *u*) means something added; an addition:

“In Hawthorne, whose faculty was developed among scholars, and with the finest *additaments* of scholarship, we have our first true artist in literary expression.”

In a palace . . . there are certain *additaments* that contribute to its ornament and use.

—*Lee M. Hale.*

Addressee.

The one to whom anything is addressed:

“They noticed the *addressee* that a package was held at the express office.”

Adduce.

Adduce is to bring forward, present or offer; advance; cite; name as authority for what one advances:

"He *adduced* some papers to prove the truth of his statement."

Synonyms.—*Adduce*, *Allege*, *Assign*, *Advance*, *Offer* and *Assign*.—*Offer* and *assign* are the least forcible of these words. To *offer* is merely to present for acceptance. We may *offer* a plea, an apology, or an excuse, but it may not be accepted. We may *assign* a reason, but it may not be the real or only reason which might be given by us. We may *advance* an opinion or a theory and may *cite* authorities in support of it. *Allege* is the most positive of all these words. To *allege* is to make an unsupported statement regarding something; to *adduce*, on the other hand, is to bring forward proofs or evidence in support of some statement or proposition already made; as, "He *alleged* that he had been robbed by A. B., but *adduced* no proof in support of his allegation.

—*Century*.

Adducible.

Adducible (accent on the second syllable) means capable of being adduced:

Here I end my specimens, among the many which might be given, of the arguments *adducible* to Christianity.—*J. H. Newman*.

Adept.

Adept (a-dept; accent on the second syllable); (adjective) means well-skilled; completely versed or acquainted; (noun) one who has attained proficiency:

(a.) "She was *adept* in the art of lace-making."

(n.) "She was an *adept* in the art of lace-making."

Adeptness.

Adeptness (accent on *dept*) means skillfulness; special proficiency:

"Everything that she made proved her *adeptness* in the art of home-making."

Adequacy.

Adequacy (ad-e-kwa-si; accent on the first syllable; the vowels are all shortened, *e* and *a* being slighted in rapid utterance) means the state or quality of being adequate; the condition of being proportionate or sufficient; sufficiency for a purpose:

Every theory must be judged, not only by its power of making grimaces at opposing theories, but also and chiefly by its own positive *adequacy* to the facts.—*Bowne*.

"The *adequacy* of means to end results in success."

"Her efforts lacked *adequacy* of purpose, so that her attempts to accomplish what she had undertaken proved futile."

Adequate.

Adequate (ad-e-quate; accent on *ad*; *e* and *a* are shortened, *e* almost to the sound of *u* in *us*; *a* almost to the sound of *e* in *end*) means equal to requirement or occasion:

A thing is *adequate* to something else when it comes quite up to its level; yet neither may be *sufficient* when viewed in relation to some third thing. That which is *sufficient* may be

adequate and more. *Enough* means *adequate*, but is applied to a different class of subjects.

—*Century*.

“Nothing is an *adequate* presentation of a fact that gives only a partial statement of the truth.”

Adherence.

Adherence (accent on *her*, pronounced *here*) means the act of sticking; fidelity:

“Her *adherence* to vows that, under the circumstances, should have been broken, showed the stubbornness of her will.”

Adjudicate.

Adjudicate (a-joo-di-kate; accent on *joo*) means to adjudge; pronounce judgment upon:

Superior force may end in conquest; . . . but it cannot *adjudicate* any right.—*Sumner*.

Adjudication.

Adjudication (accent on *ca*) means a passing of judgment:

To pass off a verdict of personal taste under the guise of an *adjudication* of science.

—*F. Hall*.

Admonition.

Admonition (ad-mo-nish-un; accent on *nish*) means the act of giving advice, counsel, or direction; gentle reproof. *Admonition*, unlike *censure*, is always directed to the person admonished; *censure* may be, but is not necessarily, so directed:

The best preservative to keep the mind in health is the faithful *admonition* of a friend.

—*Bacon*.

Advantageous.

Advantageous (ad-van-ta-gus; accent on *ta*) means beneficial; of advantage:

“Trade is *advantageous* to a nation.”

Adventitious.

Adventitious (ad-ven-tish-us; accent on *tish*) means something that is added externally; not springing from something inherent in the thing, but added from some other source; something that is added from without or gives additional power or effect.

Nevertheless, there is something great in the movement when a man first strips himself of *adventitious* wrappings.—*Carlyle*.

Every subject acquires an *adventitious* importance to him who considers it with application.
—*Goldsmith*.

Adulation.

Adulation (accent on *la*, *lay*; *du* variable to *joo* in rapid utterance) means servile flattery; unmerited praise. It proceeds either from blind praise or from the hope of personal advantage, and is usually addressed to the individual. It corresponds to obsequiousness in conduct. (*Flattery* is unmerited praise addressed to the person flattered, and may be either with or without a selfish motive. *Compliment* is a milder term than *flattery* and may express the truth.)

Adulation ever follows the ambitious; for such alone receive most pleasure from flattery.
—*Goldsmith*.

Adverse and Averse.

Adverse (accent usually on *ad*) means antagonistic; opposite. *Averse* (accent on *verse*) means *unwilling*.

Adverse applies to action or condition; *averse* to the feeling of an individual in opposition to the action of some other individual:

“*Adverse* fortune followed him.”

"I am *averse* to your going."

Error is *adverse* to human happiness.

—*Herbert Spencer.*

"*Adverse* conditions only spurred him on to further endeavor."

"The bride's parents are not *averse* to the match."

The toils and dangers of the wilderness were to be encountered before the *adverse* hosts could meet.—*Cooper.*

Adversely.

Adversely (accent on *ad*) means in an *adverse* manner.

"*Adversely* considered, your proposition will not hold."

Advert.

Advert (accent on *vert*) means to turn the mind to the thing to be considered. It conveys a meaning often of abruptness, or directness,—a turning of the hearer or the reader's attention somewhat abruptly in order to emphasize the meaning to be conveyed. *Advert* is a stronger word than *refer*, which directs the attention without abruptness. (*Allude* and *hint* are delicate in reference, suggesting the thing to be considered only indirectly.)

"He *adverted* to the occurrences of the day."

Advertence and Advertency.

Advertence (accent on *ver*) means a turning or direction of the mind; attention. *Advertency* (accent on *ver*) means the act or state of being needful; attentiveness.

"The full and direct *advertence* of the mind is necessary to the solution of the difficulties that confront us."

"*Avertency* is the habitual state of the keenly inquiring mind, which seeks to know, not merely to guess."

Advisory.

Advisory (ad-vi-zo-ri; accent on *vi*; *i* as in *ize*) means in the nature of advice:

"His opinion is merely *advisory*; you do not need to heed it."

The general association has a general *advisory* superintendence over all the ministers and churches.—*B. Trumbull*.

Aerogram.

Aerogram (a-er-o-gram); accent is on *a*, and *a* is pronounced as a separate syllable.

Aeronaut.

Aeronaut (a-er-o-naut); accent is on *a*, and *a* is pronounced as a separate syllable.

Affability.

Affability means readiness to converse; civility in social intercourse:

He had a majestic presence, with much dignity, and at the same time *affability* of manner.

—*Prescott*.

"His rare conversational ability, coupled with extreme *affability* of manner and great physical attractiveness, invests his personality with an unusual charm."

Affluence.

Affluence (accent on *flu*, *floo*) means an abundant supply of material goods; wealth:

"He rapidly rose to *affluence*."

Few scholars have manifested so much independence and *affluence* of thought in connection with so rich and varied an amount of knowledge.—*Whipple*.

A fortiori.

‡ *A fortiori* (a-for-shi-o-ri; accent on o; a as in ale; i in shi like i in it; o as in old; i in ri like i in ice) means "for a still stronger reason."

As he (Shakespeare) has avoided obscurities in his sonnets, he would do so *a fortiori* in his plays, for the purpose both of immediate effect on the stage and of future appreciation.

—Lowell.

After-glow or Afterglow.

The glow frequently seen in a sky after sunset is called the *after-glow*.

‡ The *afterglow* in the evening suffused the front of the chapel with a warm light.

—C. W. Stoddard.

The traditions of a purer time still lingered beyond the Alps; the *after-glow* of light that had set elsewhere.—Geikie.

After-math or Aftermath.

After-math (accent on af; a in after and in math like a in ask) means a second mowing.

So, by many a sweep

Of meadow smooth from *aftermath*, we reached
The griffin-guarded gates.—Tennyson.

To reap an *after-math*

Of Youth's vainglorious deeds.—Tourel.

Aggrandizement.

Aggrandizement (accent on ag; i in diz like i in ice; or accent on gran; i in diz like i in it) means the state of being exalted in power and in wealth or honor.

Politicians are apt to speak against the party which hinders them in their schemes of patriotic *aggrandizement*.—McCosh.

Aggregation and Segregation.

Aggregation (accent on *ga*) means the act of collecting or the state of being collected into an organized whole; a combined whole. *Segregation* (accent on *ga*) means the act of separating or the state of being separated; a separation.

Alarmist.

Alarmist (accent on *lar*) means one that excites alarm; one who is prone to raise alarm by exaggeration of the facts.

"I advise you to pay no attention to him, for he is an *alarmist*."

Alchemy.

Alchemy (al'kem-i; *a* as in *at*) means, by extension, any cunning or mysterious process of changing the structure or the appearance of a thing.

"He did not dream how ardent and masculine his gaze was nor that the warm flame of it was affecting the *alchemy* of her spirit."

—*Jack London*.

Allen.

Alien, adjective (al-yen; accent on *al* [*ale*]), means residing under another government or in another country than one's own, and not having the rights of citizenship in such place of residence; also wholly different in nature; used with either *to* or *from*.

The sad heart of Ruth, when sick for home
She stood in tears amid the *alien* corn.—*Keats*.

"It is difficult to affiliate with persons so *alien* to us in habits and modes of living."

Alien (noun) means a foreigner.

"There now remains in Europe scarcely a people, scarcely even a tribe, which has reason

to complain of being subject to the dominion of *aliens*."

Alienate.

Alienate (ale-yen-ate; accent on the first syllable) means to estrange.

"He *alienated* all his friends by his conduct."

(*Alienate* also means to transfer to another as a title or right.)

Alienist.

Alienist (accent on the first syllable) means one engaged in the scientific study or treatment of mental diseases.

"Several noted *alienists* have examined the prisoner."

He (John Locke) looked at insanity rather too superficially for a practical *alienist*.

—E. C. Mann.

Alleviate.

Alleviate (accent on *le*) means to make lighter; to lessen.

"If we cannot remove the burdens of the poor, we can at least *alleviate* them."

"If we could only *alleviate* distress wherever we find it, how much happier the world would be."

Altercation.

Altercation (accent on *ca* [*kay*]; *a* in *al* like *a* in *at*) means a wrangle; a warm contention in words.

* "The *altercation* was long and heated."

Altruism and Egolism.

Altruism (al-troo-ism; accent on *al*; *a* in *al* like *a* in *at*) denotes the benevolent instincts and emotions in general, or action prompted by

them. *Egoism* (e-go-ism; accent on *e*; *e* as in *feel*) is the opposite of altruism; it denotes pure selfishness or exclusive reference to self as an element of character; valuing everything only in reference to one's personal interest.

If we define *altruism* as being an action which, in the normal course of things, benefits others, instead of benefiting self, then, from the dawn of life, *altruism* has been no less essential than *egoism*.—*Herbert Spencer*.

The ideal, the true and noble that was in them, having faded out, nothing now remaining but naked *egoism*, vulturous greediness, they cannot live."

Alternate.

Alternate (verb; accent on *al*) means to do or perform by turns, or in succession, and is usually followed by *with*; as, "the flood and ebb tides *alternate with each other*."

"Good after ill, and after pain delight."

Alternate like the scenes of day and night.
—*Dryden*.

Alternate (adjective; accent on *ter*) means being by turns, first one and then the other:

And bid *alternate* passions fall and rise.
—*Pope*.

‡ Friendship consists in mutual offices, and a generous strife in *alternate* acts of kindness.

—*South*.

"I belong to the *Alternate Club*."

Alternative.

Alternative means that of two things only one can be selected; also, the course of action or the thing offered in place of another:

Having to choose between two *alternatives*,

safety and war, you obstinately prefer the worse.—*Jewett*.

If this demand is refused the *alternative* is war.—*Lewis*.

With no *alternative* but death.—*Longfellow*.

Altisonant.

Altisonant (accent on *tis*) means high sounding; lofty or pompous, as language: as, “*altisonant* phrases.”

Altitude.

Altitude (accent on *al*; *u* as in *mute*) means the degree of elevation of an object above its foundation or a given level, usually indicating great height; as, the *altitude* of a mountain, or of a cloud, or of a bird above the top of a tree.

It may be used to express the height of degree:

He is proud even to the *altitude* of his virtue.
—*Shakespeare*.

Also, an elevation or height:

The *altitudes* which are surmounted only for the charms of the outlook they offer.

—*D. D. Mitchell*.

Altropathy.

Altropathy (al-trop-a-thi; accent on the second syllable) means sympathy, feeling for others:

Better still to convey the altruistic conception, and in more natural contrast with *autopathy* (egoistic sentiment), there might in like manner be substituted for sympathy the allied expression *altropathy*, which, to a certain extent, would come to the aid of the stronger term *philanthropy*.—*F. L. Ward*.

Amalgamate.

Amalgamate means to blend or combine so as to make a uniform compound; to unite or combine; as, to *amalgamate* one race with another:

Ingratitude is indeed their four cardinal virtues compacted and *amalgamated* into one.

—*Burke.*

Amalgamation.

Amalgamation is the mixing or blending of different things, especially of races:

Early in the fourteenth century the *amalgamation* of the races was all but complete.

—*Macaulay.*

Amanuensis.

♦ *Amanuensis* (a-man-u-en-sis; accent on *en*) is one who writes what another dictates, or copies what another has written.

Amaranthine.

Amaranthine (accent on *ran*, *i* as in *pin*) means never fading, imperishable, undying; also, a color inclining to purple:

+ The only *amaranthine* flower on earth
Is virtue.—*Cowper.*

Amateur.

An *amateur* is one versed in, or a lover of, any particular pursuit, art, or science, but not engaged in it professionally.

Amateurish.

Amateurish means in the style of an amateur; superficial or defective like the work of an amateur:

“His work is very *amateurish*.”

Amatory.

Amatory means pertaining to love; as, “*amatory* poems.”

Amaze.

Amaze is a stronger word than surprise; it means to confound as by fear, wonder, extreme surprise; to strike with astonishment:

“I was *amazed* to find him there.”

Then down into the vale he gazed,
And held his breath as if *amazed*
By all its wondrous loveliness.

—*William Morris.*

Amazement includes the idea of bewilderment as well as surprise. *Surprise* is literally to take unaware. *Astonish* applies particularly to that which is great or striking. To *astound* is to overwhelm with surprise so that we do not know what to think or do. *Surprise* is sometimes used in a weakened sense, as in the expression, “I should not be *surprised* to find him there.”

Amazing Europe with her wit.—*Goldsmith.*

He was *astonished* at the vision.

These thoughts may startle well, but not *astound*

The virtuous mind.—*Milton.*

Ambassador.

Ambassador means a foreign minister of the highest rank sent on public business from one sovereign power to another. The word was formerly spelled *embassador* also, but custom has now established the orthography of *ambassador* and *embassy* (the residence or office of an ambassador). An *ambassador* is a permanent functionary; a *plenipotentiary* is employed only on special occasions, as for concluding peace or making treaties.

Ambidexterity.

Ambidexterity (accent on *ter*), literally the faculty of using both hands with equal facility, is used also to express versatility, general readiness; as, *ambidexterity* of argumentation. ✱

Ambidextrous.

Having equal facility in using both hands; and, by extension, capable of acting on both sides or in two directions; hence, double dealing:

All false, shuffling, and *ambidextrous* dealings.—*L'Estrange*.

Ambient.

Ambient means that which surrounds or invests, as air:

Opening to the *ambient* light.—*Milton*.

✱ Whose perfumes through the *ambient* air diffuse

Such native aromatics.—*Carew*.

Ambiguity.

Ambiguity (accent on *gu*) means doubtfulness, uncertainty, particularly as to the signification of language.

No shadow of *ambiguity* can rest upon the course to be pursued.—*Taylor*.

Let our author, therefore, come out of his mists and *ambiguities*, or give us some better authority for his unreasonable doubts.

—*Dryden*.

Ambiguous.

Ambiguous means capable of being understood in more senses than one:

Expressed in French, a proposition cannot be *ambiguous*.—*W. C. Brownell* in *French Traits*.

“He (the debtor) is tempted to make *ambiguous* statements.”

What have been thy answers, what but dark,
ambiguous, and with double sense deluding.
—*Milton*.

When the utterance is *ambiguous*, the meaning is *doubtful*. *Ambiguity* of speech may result from the want of clear thought or adequate expression, and is not intentionally deceptive. *Equivocal* applies to an expression that would naturally be understood one way, but which is capable of a different interpretation. Equivocal words are intended to mislead. That is *doubtful* which is fairly open to doubt. What is not exactly known, fixed, or decided, is *uncertain*.

Ambulatory.

Ambulatory (accent on *am*) means having the power or faculty of walking; hence, accustomed to move from place to place; as, an *ambulatory* court which exercises its jurisdiction in different places:

Multitudes, hearing of his miraculous power to cure all diseases by the word of his mouth, or the touch of his hand, . . . came with their *ambulatory* hospital of sick.—*Bp. Taylor*.

Ameliorate.

Ameliorate (a-me-li-o-rate); accent on the second syllable, *e* as in *eve*, *a* as in *mate*) means to make better or more tolerable:

In every human being there is a wish to *ameliorate* his own condition.—*Macaulay*.

Ameliorate is not commonly applied to persons and things, but to conditions and like abstractions; it indicates painstaking effort followed by some measure of success; as, to *ameliorate* the condition of the poor.

“It [stoicism] was unfit for the task of *ameliorating* the condition of mankind.”

Amenable.

Amenable (accent on *me*) means (1) answerable, accountable; liable to make answer or defense; in this sense used of persons:

The sovereign of this country is not *amenable* to any form of trial known to the laws.

—*Junius*.

(2) Under subjection or subordination, liable or exposed, as to authority or control; said of persons or things; as, persons or offenses *amenable* to the law; *amenable* to criticism. (3) Willing to yield or submit; tractable; submissive:

Sterling . . . always was *amenable* enough to counsel.—*Carlyle*. .

Amend.

Amend means to free from faults; to make better or more proper:

“You must *amend* your ways before I can reinstate you in your former position.”

To *amend* is generally to bring into a more perfect state by the removal of defects. To *improve* or *better* may mean the heightening of excellence; as, to *improve* land.

Amends.

Amends means compensation for a loss or injury, and is used chiefly in the phrase “to make *amends*.”

Finding *amends* for want and obscurity in books and thoughts.—*Emerson*.

It dishonors not a king

To make *amends* to one whom he has wronged.

—*Homer*.

Yet thus far fortune maketh us *amends*.

—*Shakespeare*.

Amendatory.

Amendatory means supplying or containing amendment:

"I recommend that it be supplied by an *amendatory* or supplemental act."

Amenity.

Amenity (accent on *men*) means the quality of being pleasant or agreeable in situation, prospect, climate, temper, disposition, manners, etc. Also (usually in the plural) anything characterized by such agreeableness; as, the *amenities* of social life:

A sweetness and an *amenity* of temper.

—*Buckle*.

"This climate has not seduced by its *amenities*."

Babylon was a seat of *amenity* and pleasure.

—*Brown*.

✓ **Amerce.**

Amerce (a-mers; accent on the last syllable, *a* as in *fiscal*) means (1) to punish with a pecuniary penalty or fine; to mulct:

"The court *amerced* the defendant in the sum of \$100."

(2) To punish by inflicting a penalty of any kind, as by depriving of some right or privilege, or entailing some loss upon:

Millions of spirits for his fault *amerced*
Of heaven.—*Milton*.

Amicable.

Amicable means friendly; it denotes merely freedom from hard feelings, while *friendly* indicates a degree of active interest:

Enter each mild, each *amicable* guest.—*Pope*.

✓It is in the time of trouble that the warmth of the *friendly* heart and the support of the *friendly* hand acquire increased value and additional gratitude.—*Bp. Mant.*

Amicably, in an amicable manner; without controversy:

“I could wish to see the disturbance of Europe once more *amicably* adjusted.”

Amity.

Amity means friendship in a general sense:

Great Britain was in league and *amity* with all the world.—*Sir J. Davies.*

Amorous.

Amorous means inclined to love; enamored of:

A prince I was, blue-eyed and fair in face,
Of temper *amorous* as the first of May.

—*Tennyson.*

So *amorous* is Nature of what she produces.

—*Dryden.*

Anachronism.

Anachronism (an-ach-ro-nism; accent on the second syllable) means an error in computing time, or in chronology, made by placing an event earlier or later than it really happened:

“The use of cannon in Shakespeare’s King John is an *anachronism*, as cannon were not employed in England until a hundred or more years after his reign.”

Anagoge, Anagogy.

Anagoge, gy (an-a-go-je; accent on *go*) means the spiritual meaning or application of words; an extraordinary elevation of mind.

Anagogical (an-a-goj-i-kal; accent on *goj*, *o* in *goj* like *o* in *not*) means pertaining to *anagoge*; mysterious; religiously exalted:

The work [*Divina Commedia*] is to be interpreted in a literal, allegorical, moral, and *anagogical* sense, a mode then commonly employed with the Scriptures.—*Lowell*.

Anathema.

Anathema (accent on the second syllable) means a curse pronounced by ecclesiastical authority; malediction; curse:

She fled to London, followed by the *anathemas* of both.—*Thackeray*.

Drawing his falchion and uttering a thousand *anathemas*, he strode down to the scene of combat.—*Irving*.

Anathematize (accent on the second syllable), to pronounce an anathema; to denounce; curse:

The priests continued to exorcise the possessed, to prosecute witches, and to *anathematize* as infidels all who questioned the crime.

—*Lecky*.

Anatomize.

Anatomize, literally to dissect, as a plant; figuratively, to analyze or examine minutely:

* In her the painter has *anatomized* Time's ruin.—*Shakespeare*.

Anchoret or Anchorite.

Anchoret, *rite* (ang-ko-ret or rite; accent on first syllable) means one who retires from the world from religious motives; a hermit.

"Macarius, the great Egyptian *anchoret*."

Monks adopt a secluded life, but live in communities; *hermits* withdraw to desert places, but do not deny themselves shelter or occupation; *anchorets* choose the most absolute solitude and subject themselves to the greatest privations.

Ancient.

Ancient means (1) old; of old time; not modern:

Many are the sayings of the wise

In *ancient* and modern book enrolled.—*Milton*.

(2) That which has been of long duration; of great age; in this sense applied generally to things, but sometimes to persons:

Under the covert of some *ancient* oak.—*Milton*.

And made Verona's *ancient* citizens,

Cast by their grave, beseeeming ornaments.

—*Shakespeare*.

(3) Past; former:

I see thy fury; if I longer stay,

We shall begin our *ancient* bickerings.

—*Shakespeare*.

Ancient and *old* are generally applied only to things subject to change; *antique* may refer to that which has come down from antiquity or to something which is made in imitation of ancient style. An *ancient* temple is one built by the ancients; an *antique* is one built in the style of the ancients.

Ancient and *antique* are opposed to *modern*; *old* is opposed to *new*. *antiquated*, to what is *customary* and *established*, *obsolete*, to what is *current*. Thus:

"*Ancient* history; *antique* art; *old* books; *antiquated* customs; *obsolete* words."

Ancillary.

Ancillary (accent on the first syllable) means subservient; attendant upon; serving as an aid or accessory; secondary; as, *ancillary* treatise, *ancillary* court:

Whoever has seen a person of powerful char-

acter and happy genius will have remarked how easily nature came *ancillary* to a man.

* * * *

The hero sees that the event is *ancillary*; it must follow him.—*Emerson*.

Anecdote.

Anecdote (accent on *an*) means a biographical fragment, incident, or fact; a short story. Anecdotes are always reported to be true; stories may be either true or fictitious. *Anecdote* also may mean anecdotes collectively; as, "full of wit and *anecdote*."

And without *anecdote*, what is biography, or even history?—*Lowell*.

Anecdotic, *anecdotal* (accent on *dot*), means pertaining to anecdote:

He silenced him without mercy when he attempted to be *anecdotic*.—*Savage*.

Animadversion.

Animadversion (accent on *ver*) means a censorious comment or reflection; severe criticism; stricture:

He dismissed their commissioners with severe and sharp *animadversions*.—*Clarendon*.

Animosity

Animosity is passionate enmity; vehement hatred:

But their *animosity*, though smothered for a while, burnt with redoubled violence.—*Gibbon*.

Animus.

Animus (accent on *an*) means the animating thought or purpose; especially hostile feeling or intent; as, "the *animus* of the speech was partisan."

Anomaly, Anomalies.

Anomaly, anomalies (accent on *nom*; lies in plural pronounced *lie*) means a deviation from what is regular; something abnormal.

There are in human nature *anomalies* . . . for which theocrists do not always take account.

—*Lecky*.

Anthology.

Anthology (an-thol-o-ji, accent on *thol*), meaning originally a collection from Greek poetic writers, now applies to a collection of choice writings from various authors; sometimes from the writings of a single author.

Anthologist.

Anthologist (accent on *thol*) means a collector of an anthology.

Mr. E. V. Lucas, the indefatigable *anthologist*, is one of the rare instances of a congenital collector, who, while indulging his master passion, has remained human and articulate.

—*J. B. Kerfoot*.

Antipathy.

Antipathy means a natural aversion; repugnance; opposed to sympathy:

No contraries hold more *antipathy*

Than I and such a man.—*Shakespeare*.

Aperture.

Aperture (accent on *ap*) means a small opening; a hole, as, "an *aperture* of an inch."

Aphorism.

Aphorism (af-o-rizm) means a principle or precept expressed in few words; a maxim; an adage; a proverb:

Apocalypse.

Apocalypse (a-pok-a-lips; accent on *pok*) means a revelation; a discovery; a disclosure.

Apograph.

Apograph means a copy as opposed to an *autograph*:

Hebrew manuscripts are divided into two classes, viz: autographs, . . . and *apographs*. or copies made from the originals.—*Horne*.

Apologue.

Apologue (ap-o-log; accent on *ap*) means a fabulous story or fiction contrived to teach some moral truth:

Apothegm.

An *apothegm* (accent on *ap*) is a sententious or remarkable saying of some distinguished person; a valuable maxim; a laconic, instructive remark:

“Nor do *apothegms* serve.”

“The admirable Hebrew *apothegm*, ‘Learn to say, “I do not know.” ’ ’ ”

Apposite.

Apposite (ap-o-zit; accent on *ap*) means proper; fit; suitable; well-applied; relevant; as, “an *apposite* remark.”

★ **Appositeness.**

Appositeness (accent on *ap*) means fitness.

The magic of language and *appositeness* of imagery for which he [Shakespeare] stands pre-eminent.—*Irving*.

Aquiline.

Aquiline (ak-wi-lin or line; accent on the first syllable) means (1) of or pertaining to an eagle; (2) like an eagle, specially in nose or features; curving; hooked:

(1) When mortals lived
Of stronger wing, of *aquiline* ascent.

—*Young*.

(2) Terribly arched and *aquiline* his nose.

—*Cowper*.

Arboreal.

Arboreal (ar-bo-re-al; accent on *bo*; *a* as in *father*; *o* as in *bow*; *e* and *a* shortened in rapid utterance) means (1) pertaining to or of the nature of trees; (2) living on or among trees:

Darwin shocked the world with his announcement that man and monkey are descendants of a common ancestor—an *arboreal* creature with tail and pointed ears. The thought of such lowly origin was most repugnant to many who had been taught to believe in man's divine origin; but Darwin's evidence staggered the world, made it pause and investigate. Investigation was followed by conviction.—*Hudson Maxim*.

Articulate Speech.

Articulate, as applied to speech, means jointed by syllables, divided into distinct successive parts, like joints, by the alternating of open and closed sounds or the intervention of consonantal utterances between vowel sounds; said of human speech-utterance as distinguished from other sounds made by the human organs, and from sounds made by the lower animals. In view of the fact that birds do possess speaking organs in a highly developed state, and the fact that they are constantly making all sorts of

sounds to one another with them, it certainly appears reasonable to believe that they have some form of *articulate* speech sufficient for their needs—speech whereby they communicate ideas. If birds do this—if by the sounds they utter they do convey ideas—then they unquestionably possess *articulate* speech.

* * * * *

We have seen that certain lower animals do have all the requisite organs of speech; that they are all capable of uttering *articulate* speech for conveying ideas, in many cases using sounds as arbitrary symbols of ideas, the same as does man.—*Hudson Maxim*.

Ascetic.

Ascetic (a-set-ik; accent on *set*), adjective, means practicing special acts of self-denial as a religious exercise; seeking holiness through self-mortification; hence, rigidly abstinent and self-restrained as to appetites and passions:

Genius is always *ascetic*; and piety and love. Appetite shows to the finer souls as a disease.

—*Emerson*.

“He pursued an *ascetic* course of the severest abstinence and devotion.”

(*Noun*.) One practiced in self-denial and devotion:

“He was an *ascetic*.”

Asclians.

Asclians.—This term is applied to those inhabitants of the globe who at certain times of the year have no shadow. This can happen only with respect to the inhabitants of the torrid zone, who twice a year have the sun in the zenith.

Askance.

Askance (accent on the last syllable) means
(1) sideways; obliquely:

“The cunning glances which she [Topsy] shot *askance* from the corners of her eyes.”

(2) With distrust; disdain; distrustfully:

Emerson looked rather *askance* at Science in his early days.—*Hoimes*.

Aspen.

Aspen, a species of poplar the leaves of which always tremble; hence, trembling:

Poor *aspen* wretch.—*Donne*.

Shook like the *aspen* leaves in the wind.

—*Scott*.

Asperity.

* *Asperity* (accent on *per*), meaning unevenness or roughness of surface, is used by extension to express harshness of sound, acrimony; tartness; roughness or sourness of disposition; crabbedness:

“Avoid all unseemliness and *asperity* of carriage.—*Rogers*.

If ever *asperity* could be excused in any man, it might have been in Milton.—*Carlyle*.

Asperse.

Asperse, to bespatter with censure; to cast reproach upon; vilify; calumniate; as, “opportunity to *asperse* the king”; *asperse* by insinuation; *defame* or *vilify* by advancing charges to injure character; *slander* by propagating evil reports; *calumniate* by inventing and spreading injurious reports; *detract* by undervaluing motives of good deeds; *revile* by treating with contumely.

Aspersions.

Aspersions (accent on the second syllable) means (1) a sprinkling, as of water; (2) calumny; detraction:

(1) No sweet *aspersions* shall the heavens let fall.—*Shakespeare*.

(2) The same *aspersions* of the king, and the same grounds of a rebellion.—*Dryden*.

Assayed.

Assayed (accent on *sayed* [*sade*]) means to analyze, as an ore:

The main object of this book is to provide a practical method for literary criticism and analysis, and a standard of uniform judgment for determining the relative merits of literary productions; and, further, to supply a more practical and efficient means than we have had heretofore for the standardization of poetry, whereby any poem may be *assayed* and the amount of its poetic good determined and separated from the slag and dross.—*Hudson Maxim*.

Asseverate.

Asseverate (accent on *sev*) means to assert or affirm with great solemnity; to aver; to declare positively:

Anselmus . . . *assevereth* it.—*Fotherby*.

Assuage.

Assuage, (as-swage; accent on *swage*) means to cause to be less harsh, violent, or severe; to alleviate, abate:

Refreshing winds the summer's heats *assuage*.—*Addison*.

Astute.

Astute (accent on the last syllable; *u* as in *mute*) means keen in discernment; shrewd; sagacious; cunning:

✓The *astute* little lady of Curzon Street.

—*Thackeray*.

No ambassadors to Western Courts were so instructed, so decorous, so proud, so *astute*, as the Venetian ambassadors.—*D. G. Mitchell*.

The *astute* mind adds to *acuteness* and *keenness* an element of cunning or finesse. The *astute* debater leads his opponents into a snare by getting them to make admissions, or urge arguments, of which he sees a result that they do not perceive. The *acute*, *keen* intellect may take no special advantage of these qualities; the *astute* mind has always a point to make for itself, and seldom fails to make it.

—*Standard Dictionary*.

Atavism.

Atavism (accent on *at*) means recurrence or tendency to recur to an ancestral type; intermittent heredity; reversion:

“Moralists attribute to *atavism* a large number of offenses which lawyers attribute to guilty dispositions.”

Auditory.

Auditory means pertaining to the sense of hearing:

“The appeal of a play is primarily visual rather than *auditory*.”

Aura.

Aura (*au* as in *awl*; accent on first syllable) means a supposed emanation of force or an exhalation of atmosphere from a body.

“She was very sensitive to impressions, and it was not strange, after all, that this *aura* of a traveler from another world should so affect her.

—*Jack London*.

Automobile.

Automobile is accented on *mo*; *bile* is pronounced *bil* (make *mobile* rhyme with *noble*).

Aviator, Aviation.

Aviation: Both *a*'s in *aviator* and *aviation* are long, like *a* in *mate*. The accent in *aviator* is on the first *a*; in *aviation*, on the second *a*; *o* in *tor* is slighted in rapid utterance.

Axiom.

Axioms (accent on the first syllable) are self-evident truths, and are the foundations of science; *maxims* are generally admitted truths or principles which are to be followed in practical affairs, and are the foundation of morals; but *axioms* are unchangeable, and *maxims* may vary:

“The philosophical proof of this theory depends upon the validity of the *axiom* that every effect must have a cause.”

Axiomatic.

Axiomatic (accent on *mat*) means (1) of, pertaining to, or of the nature of, an *axiom*; self-evident:

Many controversies arise touching the *axiomatic* character of the law.—*Sir W. Hamilton*.

(2) Full of maxims or axioms; aphoristic:

The most *axiomatic* of English poets.

—*Southey*.

✕ Baccalaureate.

Baccalaureate (bak-ka-law-re-ate, accent on the third syllable) is the degree of bachelor of arts, the lowest academical degree conferred by universities and colleges. *Baccalaureate* sermon, in some American colleges, is the ser-

mon delivered as a farewell discourse to a graduating class.

"The date of the *baccalaureate* sermon is May 21st."

Bacchanal.

Bacchanal (bak-a-nal, accent on the first syllable) is derived from Bacchus, the god of wine, and means, when used as a noun, a votary of Bacchus; hence, a drunken reveler, an orgy; a bacchanalian song or dance.

Carthusian fasts and fulsome *bacchanals* equally I hate.—*Donne*.

Bacchanal is used also as an adjective; as, "*bacchanal* feasts," though *bacchanalian* (accent on the third syllable, the *a* being either *a* as in *fate* or in *ask*) is the more common form of the adjective.

Even *bacchanalian* madness has its charms.
—*Cowper*.

Bacchanalia.

Bacchanalia (accent on the third syllable, the *a* being variable as in *bacchanalian*) meant in Roman antiquity a festival in honor of Bacchus, hence the term is applied to any festivities characterized by jollity and good-fellowship, particularly if boisterous and accompanied by much wine-drinking. It may mean, also, unbounded license.

Plunging without restraint or shame into the *Bacchanalia* of despotism, the king [John] continued to pillage, to banish, and to slay.

—*Sir E. Creasy*.

Baconian.

Baconian means relating to Lord Bacon or his system of philosophy; is, also, the term used

to express the theory that Lord Bacon wrote the plays of Shakespeare.

Baconism (accent on *ba*) means the philosophy of Lord Bacon, or the general spirit of his writings.

These societies are schools of *Baconism*, designed to embody all that was of value in thought and spirit of Bacon.—*Wright*.

Baculus.

Baculus (bak-u-lus, accent on *bak*, *u* as in *mute* shortened in rapid utterance, *u* in *lus* like *u* in *tub*) means variously, a divining-rod, a long staff, or a crozier of office.

The *baculus*, or pastoral staff . . . became a part of the *Grand Master's* insignia.

—*Mackey*.

Badinage.

Badinage (bad-i-nazh, accent on the last syllable, the *a* in this syllable being as *a* in *far*; or bad-i-naj, accent on the first syllable, *a* in the last syllable, like *a* in *fate* shortened in rapid utterance) means light, playful banter or railery.

He seems most to have indulged himself only in an elegant *badinage*.—*Warburton*.

The caressing fancy and lively *badinage* of lyric singers like Herrick.—*Green*.

Bagatelle.

Bagatelle (bag-a-tel, accent on *tel*) means an amount or a degree too small to be taken into account; as, it is but a trifle, a mere *bagatelle*.

Bagio.

Bagio (ba-ge-o, accent on the first syllable, *a* as in *far*) in the Philippine Islands is the na-

tive name for a hurricane, cyclone, or other great storm.

Bagios, as hurricanes are called here, seem to be of frequent occurrence.—*Plant World*.

Bailiwick.

Bailiwick, a law term, meaning the district comprised within a sheriff's or a bailiff's jurisdiction, as a county or a parish; also, the office or jurisdiction of such an officer.

Why she was always called Miss Jane Stevens, seeing there was no other Miss Stevens in that precinct or *bailiwick*, I do not know.

—*E. E. Hale*.

The term is often applied to a neighborhood or city ward, over which a local politician holds sway; as, "He lost even in his own *bailiwick*."

Bakshish or Bakhshish.

This word, pronounced bak-sheesh, accent on the first syllable, is a term used in Oriental countries to express a gratuity customarily given or exacted for any service. It corresponds to a "tip" in other countries.

Bakshish is not alms, which it would be humiliating to an Arab to receive.—*Paul Lenoir*.

Baldachin or Baldaquin.

Baldachin (bal-da-kin, accent on the first syllable, *a* as in *at*, *a* in the second syllable as *a* in *sofa*) means a canopy, sometimes borne in ceremonial processions, sometimes fixed as over altars, tombs, shrines, etc.

Even the magnificent bronzes of the Pantheon were stripped to make the *baldachins* under the dome of St. Peter's.—*Bayard Taylor*.

Balderdash.

✕ *Balderdash* (bal-der-dash, accent on the first syllable, *a* as in *fall*) means a foolish or pompous jumble of words.

I heard him charge that publication with ribaldry, scurrility, billingsgate, and *balderdash*.
—*Horne Tooke*.

✕ Baleful.

(1) Full of hurtful or malign influence.

Till the *baleful* mist of midnight from my being passed away.—*Stedman*.

He reminded him that the *baleful* horoscope of Abdallah had predicted the downfall of Grenada.—*Prescott*.

(2) Full of grief, miserable.

That *baleful*, burning night.

When subtle Greeks surprised King Priam's
Troy. —*Shakespeare*.

Balneary.

Balneary (bal-ne-a-ri; accent on *bal*), means pertaining to a bath or a bathing place.

The French do not treat their beaches as we do ours—as places for a glance, a dip, or a trot, places animated simply during *balneary* hours.—*H. James, Jr.*

Balneology.

Balneology (bal-ne-ol-o-gy; accent on *ol*), means a treatise on baths or bathing; the use of baths and bathing as a department of therapeutics. (*Balaneutics* is the science of administering baths.)

“Among our medical schools *balneology* as a subject of systematic study is entirely neglected.”

Banal.

Banal (accent on *ban*) means (1) commonplace, hackneyed; (2) subject to manorial rights, used in common; as, a *banal* mill or oven.

(1) Too much of what England gives us from her painters of modern life is familiar, tawdry, *banal*.—*Fortnightly Review*.

(1) As a matter of fact, it merely proves that, like other and less gifted mortals, Mr. Bennett is lovably and humanly capable of being passionately *banal* out of business hours.

—J. B. Kerfoot.

Banality.

Banality (ba-nal-i-ty, accent on *nal*) is commonplaceness, triviality; especially the commonplace in speech.

The highest things were thus brought down to the level of the *banalities* of discourse.

—J. Morley.

Bane.

Anything pernicious or ruinous; a scourge; a pest; as, "it is the *bane* of my life."

Bane of the poor! it wounds their weaker mind
To miss one favor which their neighbors find.

—Crabbe.

Money, thou *bane* of bliss and source of woe.

—Herbert.

Baneful.

Exercising a hurtful influence; as, a *baneful* superstition.

In fact, nothing is so *baneful* as interfering with the legal value of money.—*Webster*.

Banzai.

Banzai (ban-zi; accent on *zi*, *i* as in *pine*,—meaning ten thousand years), in Japan is a shout of patriotic joy or encouragement some-

what like the English *hurrah*. The word is often used in English books as a noun.

A large crowd had assembled on the shore to see the prize, and she was greeted with loud and oft repeated *banzais*.

—*New York Evening Sun*.

Barbarian, Barbarous, Barbaric, Barbarism.

Barbarian (accent on *ba*, *a* as in *ate*), indicates the state next above that of the savage, and applies to whatever pertains to the life of an uncivilized people, without special reference to its moral aspect. *Barbarous* (accent on the first syllable), properly expresses the bad side of barbarian life, especially its cruelty. *Barbaric* (accent on the second syllable *bar*, *a* as in *am*), expresses the characteristic love of barbarians for adornment, magnificence, noise, etc., but it is not commonly applied to persons. It also implies lack of cultivated taste. (*A* in the first syllable is pronounced like *a* in *father* in each of the three words.)

O *barbarous* and bloody spectacle!

—*Shakespeare*.

Something of indescribable *barbaric* magnificence.—*Howells*.

Another meaning of *barbarian* is foreign, of another or outside nation. *Barbarian* to the Greek meant non-Hellenic; to the Roman, non-Roman; and means to the Christian nations, non-Christian. This is the uniform meaning of the word in the New Testament.

Among the Chinese, a European or an American is commonly spoken of as a western *barbarian*, meaning foreigner, and treaties with the Chinese government stipulate that the term must not be employed in documents of the treaty powers or of their subjects or citizens.

By extension the term *barbarian* applies to any one who is brutal or who disregards the customs of polite society; as, "That man is an utter *barbarian*."

Barbarous, in like manner means cruel, inhuman, ferocious; something that would not be expected of a person of refinement.

"The agitation against the *barbarous* method of celebrating the Fourth of July began eleven years ago."

Savage is a more bloodthirsty term than *barbarous*. Thus we speak of *savage* beasts and *barbarous* usage.

Barbarism (accent on first syllable), means want of civilization; rudeness in point of manner, arts and literature.

Rome accepted the civilization of Greece in place of her own antique *barbarism*.

—Chas. Merivale.

In rhetoric and grammar, a *barbarism* is an offense against purity of style or language; an expression not made in accordance with the proper usages of a language.

We commit a *barbarism* if we import a foreign word when an English word will express our meaning.

Barbigerous.

Barbigerous (bar-bij-e-rus; accent on *bij*), means bearded, and in botany is applied to petals that are hairy all over.

Barcarole or Barcarolle.

Barcarole (bar-ka-rol; accent on the first syllable, *o* as in *note*), means, (1) an Italian boatman; (2) a simple song or melody sung by Venetian gondoliers; (3) a piece of instru-

mental music, composed in initiation of such a song.

Barmecide or Barmacide.

Barmecide, the preferable form (bar-me-side; accent on *bar*, *a* as in *far*), means one who offers imaginary food or illusory benefits, and is derived from a story in the Arabian Nights of a member of the Barmecide family who served an imaginary feast to a beggar, placing only empty dishes before him. Hence, illusive, unreal.

The young Mongolet . . . treated us only to *Barmecide* fare.—*Stanley*.

It is a *Barmecide* feast; a pleasant place for the imagination to rove in.—*Dickens*.

"Mrs. Harris was Sary Gamp's *Barmecide* friend."

Basic.

Basic means fundamental:

"The *basic* principle runs through the literature of the past from the days of the Zend Avesta."

Bastinado.

Bastinado (bas-ti-na-do; accent on *na*, *a* as in fate) means to beat with a stick or cudgel, especially on the soles of the feet, and is a form of punishment among Turks, Chinese and others. Also, a stick or cudgel:

The Sallee rover, who threatened to *bastinado* a Christian captive to death.—*Macaulay*.

Bathos.

Bathos (ba-thos; accent on *ba*, *a* as in fate) is a rhetorical term meaning a ludicrous descent

from the sublime to the commonplace, or ridiculous:

In his fifth sonnet he (Petrarch) may, I think, be said to have sounded the lowest chasm of *bathos*.—*Macaulay*.

Batrachian.

Batrachian (ba-tra-ki-an; accent on *tra*, *a* as in fate) means, particularly, pertaining to frogs and toads:

The *batrachian* hymns from the neighboring swamps.—*O. W. Holmes*.

Battology.

Battology means a needless repetition of words in speaking or writing:

Mere surplusage of *battology*.—*Prynne*.

That heathenish *battology* of multiplying words.—*Milton*.

Beatific.

Beatific (be-a-tif-ik; accent on *tif*) means completely happy, blissful:

† He arrived in the most *beatific* frame of mind.
—*Macaulay*.

Beatify.

Beatify (accent on *at*) means to pronounce as happy or as conferring happiness:

The common conceits and phrases that *beatify* wealth.—*Barrow*.

Beatitude.

Beatitude means felicity of the highest kind; consummate bliss. In a less restricted sense any extreme pleasure or satisfaction:

True *beatitude* groweth not on earth.

—*Sir T. Brown*.

Beau-Ideal.

Beau-ideal (bo-i-de-al; accent on *bo* and on *de*) means a mental conception of any object in its perfect type, free from all blemishes that may be part of its actual existence; ideal excellence:

My ambition is to give them a *beau-ideal* of a welcome.—*Charlotte Brontë*.

Beau monde.

Beau monde (bo-mond; first *o* as in note, the second as in song, accent on *mond*) means the fashionable world; that is, people of fashion and gayety collectively:

“The gayeties of the *beau monde* are less marked during the Lenten season.”

Belles Lettres.

Belles lettres (bel let'r) means polite or elegant literature. It is used somewhat vaguely for literary work in which imagination and taste are predominant.

Beaux-esprits (singular bel-esprit).

Beaux-esprits (boze-es-pre; accent on *boze* and on *pre*, *e* in *pre* like *e* in *mete*) means men of wit or genius:

“They are looked up to as *beaux-esprits*.”

Behoove.

Behoove (accent on the last syllable) means to be necessary for, or to be meet for with respect to duty or convenience, and is used only in the third person with *it*.

It *behooves* the high for their own sakes to do things worthily.—*B. Jonson*.

Indeed, it *behooves* him to keep on good terms with his pupils.—*Irving*.

Bellicose.

Bellicose (bel-i-kos; accent on *bel*, *o* as in note) means inclined to contention; pugnacious: Arnold was, in fact, in a *bellicose* vein.

—*W. Irving.*

Belligerent.

Belligerent (be-lij-e-rent; accent on *lij*) means carrying on war; as, “*belligerent* powers;” or, tending to an infraction of peace, as, a “*belligerent* tone.”

History teaches that the nations possessing the greatest armaments have always been the most *belligerent*.—*Sumner.*

Bellwether.

Bellwether (accent on *bel*) is a sheep which leads the flock, usually with a bell on his neck; hence, a leader, and in this sense generally used contemptuously:

“The senator is now seeking a new *bellwether*.”

Bemuse.

Bemuse means to daze or partially stupefy, as with liquor; hence, occupied in idle musings or stupid reverie:

We almost despair of convincing a Cabinet *bemused* with the notion that danger can only come from France.—*Spectator.*

Benedict.

This is a cant term for a married man, especially one newly married, and is taken from the character of Benedick in Shakespeare’s “*Much Ado About Nothing*.”

Having abandoned all his old misogyny, and his professions of single independence, Coelebs became a *Benedick*.—*G. P. R. James.*

Benefaction.

Benefaction (ben-e-fak-shon, accent *fak*) means conferring a benefit, especially a charitable donation.

"The late Father C. held four parishes and was noted for his *benéfactions*."

A man of true generosity will study in what manner to render his *benefactions* most advantageous.—*Melmoth*.

Beneficence, Benevolence.

Beneficence (accent on *nes*), meaning literally well-doing, and *benevolence* (accent on *nev*), meaning literally well-wishing, both refer to doing good. *Benevolence* indicates a desire for the welfare of others; *beneficence*, the working out of that desire by doing good on a rather broad scale.

True *beneficence* is that which helps a man to do the work which he is most fitted for, not that which keeps and encourages him in idleness.

—*W. K. Clifford*.

With a bow to Hepzilah, and a degree of paternal *benevolence* in his parting nod to Phœbe, the Judge left the shop.—*Hawthorne*.

Benign.

Benign (be-nin; i as in *nine*; accent on the second syllable) means kindly, gracious; also propitious.

What did the *benign* lips seem to say?

—*Hawthorne*.

Benignant.

Benignant (be-nig-nant, accent on *nig*) means kind, favorable, salutary. *Benignant* is tender or gentle; gracious is more civil or condescending. *Kind* often implies some supe-

riority of circumstances. Thus a servant would not be said to be kind to his master, except under conditions making the master dependent upon the servant, as in illness.

Kind implies discrimination in benevolence; *good-natured* does not, and sometimes denotes weakness, as "He is too *good-natured* to refuse."

And thank *benignant* nature most for thee.

—*Lowell*.

Dame Nature was in a *benignant* mood.

Benison.

Benison (ben-i-z'n, accent on *ben*) means blessing or benediction, and is used chiefly in poetry.

More precious than the *benisons* of friends.

—*Talfourd*.

God's *benison* go with you.—*Shakespeare*.

When he entered the beautiful old garden its *benison* of peace fell upon his tumult.—*Howell*.

Beprose.

To change from poetry into prose; or to discuss prosily.

To *beprose* all rhyme.—*Mallet*.

Bequeath and Devise.

Strictly speaking, *bequeath* refers to personal possessions; *devise*, to lands; but in law these terms are regarded as synonymous when so used in the context of a will, as "I hereby *bequeath* and *devise* to my sons, etc."

Berate.

Berate means to scold or abuse vehemently.

"He has been *berated* in the newspapers and has been denounced by the legislatures of many states."

Berceuse.

Berceuse (bar-sez, accent on the second syllable) means a cradle-song; the name is given to any musical composition having a rythmical rocking movement.

Bereaved, Bereft.

Bereaved means deprived of. We are *bereaved* or *bereft* by death of a relative; we are *bereft* of hope or strength.

Beseech.

Beseech, *entreat*, *solicit*, *implore*, *supplicate* all indicate a favor asked. *Solicit* is to request with some earnestness, *entreat* implies greater urgency, usually strengthened by argument, *Beseech* is still stronger and is rather poetical, *implore* is to petition with exceeding urgency and is followed directly by the word expressing the thing sought or the person from whom it is sought, *supplicate* expresses the extreme of entreaty and usually implies deep humiliation.

Besom.

Besom (accent on *be*) means a bundle of twigs used as a broom, and, by extension, any agency that cleanses.

"The *besom* of reform was not powerful enough to make him mayor."

The *besom* of reform swept him out of office.

—*Hawthorne*.

Bespeak.

Bespeak means to ask for in advance; also to give evidence of.

"I *bespeak* your kind offices with the president."

"That act *bespeaks* a kind heart."

Poetically, to address; as "*Bespeak* him fair."

Bête noire.

Bête noire (bate nwar), a French expression, means something that is an object of dread or aversion.

"Toads are her *bête noire*."

Bewail.

Bewail means lament over. A man may grieve, mourn, regret, rue without making a sound, but he *bewails* audibly. He bemoans with suppressed and often inarticulate sounds of grief. He laments plaintively; he deplores with a settled sorrow. He rues an act; regrets a hasty word.

Bibelot.

Bibelot (bibe-lo, *i* like *e* in *meet*) is the name given to any small and curious article of virtue or object of art, such as is put in a cabinet.

"Her *bibelots* alone, gathered during her travels, were worth many thousands of dollars."

A LIST OF WORDS RELATING TO BOOKS.

Compiled from Century Dictionary.

(For reference.)

Bibliochresis (bib-li-o-kre-sis; accent on *kre*), the use of books.

Biblioclast (bib-li-o-klast; accent on *bib*), a destroyer or mutilator of books.

Bibliogenesis (bib-li-o-jen-e-sis; accent on *jen*), the act or process of creating books or literature.

Bibliognost (bib-li-og-nost; accent on *bib*), one versed in the history of books.

Bibliognostic (bib-li-og-nos-tik; accent on *nos*), pertaining to a knowledge of books.

Bibliogony (bib-li-og-o-ni; accent on *og*), the production of books.

Bibliograph (bib-li-o-graf; accent on *bib*), bibliographer (bib-li-og-ra-fer; accent on *og*), one who writes about books especially in regard to their authorship, date, typography, editions, etc.

Bibliographic, bibliographical (bib-li-o-graf-ik, i-kal; accent on *graf*), pertaining to bibliography.

Bibliographically (accent on *graf*), in a bibliographic manner.

Bibliographist (bib-li-og-ra-fist; accent on *og*), one interested in bibliography.

Bibliographize (accent on *og*), to write a bibliography of.

Bibliography (accent on *og*), the science which treats of books, their materials, authors, typography, editions, dates, subjects, classifications, history, etc.

A classified list of authorities or books on any theme, as the *bibliography* of political economy.

Biblioklept (accent on *bib*), one who steals books. [Rare.]

Bibliokleptomaniac (accent on *ma*), one affected with a mania for stealing books.

Bibliolater (bib-li-ol-a-ter; accent on *ol*), a book-worshiper. Specifically, one who is supposed to regard the mere letter of the Bible with undue or extravagant respect.

The mistaken zeal of *Bibliolaters*.—*Huxley*.

Bibliolatrism (accent on *ol*), same as bibliolater.

Bibliolatrism (accent on *ol*), characterized by bibliolater.

Bibliolatrie (accent on *ol*), worship or homage

paid to books especially excessive reverence for the letter of the Bible.

Bibliological (bib-li-o-loj-i-kal; accent on *loj*), relating to bibliology.

Bibliologist (accent *ol*), one versed in bibliology.

After so much careful investigation by the most eminent *bibliologists*.—*Southey*.

Bibliology (accent on *ol*). (1) Biblical literature, doctrine or theology. (2) A treatise on books; bibliography.

Bibliomancy (bib-li-o-man-si; accent on *bib*), a kind of divination performed by means of books; specifically, divination by means of the Bible, consisting in selecting passages of Scripture at hazard and drawing from them indications concerning the future.

Another kind of *bibliomancy* * * * consisted in appealing to the very first words heard from any one when reading the Scriptures.—*Encyc. Met.*

Bibliomane (bib-li-o-mane; accent on *bib*), same as bibliomaniac.

Bibliomaniac (bib-li-o-ma-ni-a; accent on *ma*), book-madness; a rage for collecting and possessing books, especially rare and curious ones.

Bibliomaniac (accent on *ma*). (1) One affected with bibliomania.

I found, in the owner of a choice collection of books, a well-bred gentleman and a most hearty *bibliomaniac*.—*Dibdin*.

(2) Affected by or pertaining to bibliomania; book-mad.

Bibliomaniacal (bib-li-o-ma-ni-a-kal; accent on *ni*), of or pertaining to bibliomania or bibliomaniacs.

Bibliomaniac (accent on *ma*), same as *bibliomaniac*. [Rare.]

Bibliomaniacism (bib-li-o-ma-ni-an-izm; accent on *ma*), book-madness; *bibliomania*. [Rare.]

Bibliomanism (bib-li-om-a-nizm; accent on *om*), *bibliomania*.

Bibliomanist (bib-li-om-a-mist; accent on *om*), a *bibliomaniac*.

Not *bibliomanist* enough to like black-letter.—*Lamb*.

Bibliomany (accent on *om*), same as *bibliomania*. *Imp. Dict.*

Bibliopegic (bib-li-o-pej-ik; accent on *pej*), of or pertaining to bookbinding. [Rare.]

A magnificent specimen of *bibliopegic* art.

N. Y. Tribune.

Bibliopegist (bib-li-op-e-jist; accent on *op*), a bookbinder. [Rare.]

Bibliopegistic, *cal* (accent on *jis*) of or pertaining to a *bibliopegist* or to *bibliopegy*, as *bibliopegistic* skill.

Bibliopegy (bib-li-op-e-ji; accent on *op*), the art of binding books. [Rare.]

During the 16th and 17th centuries bindings were produced in England, which suffer no disgrace by comparison with contemporary masterpieces of French, Italian and German *bibliopegy*.—*Encyc. Brit.*

Bibliophagic (bib-li-of-a-jik; accent on *of*), book-devouring, as a *bibliophagic* appetite.

Bibliophagist (accent on *of*), one who reads books omnivorously.

Bibliophile (bib-li-o-fil; accent on *bib*), a lover of books. Sometimes written *bibliophil*.

Bibliophilic (bib-li-o-fil-ik; accent on *fil*) of or pertaining to a *bibliophile* or book-lover.

A *bibliophilic* curiosity is a copy of the first American play, "The Contrast," from the library of George Washington.—*Art Age*.

Bibliophilism (bib-li-of-i-lizm; accent on *of*), love of books.

Bibliophilist (accent on *of*), a lover of books; a bibliophile.

Bibliophilistic (bib-li-of-i-lis-tik; accent on *lis*) of or pertaining to a bibliophilist.

Bibliophilous (bib-li-of-i-lus; accent on *of*), book-loving; addicted to bibliophily.

Bibliophily (accent on *op*), love of books.

Bibliophobia (bib-li-o-fo-bi-a; accent on *fo*), a dread or hatred of books.

Bibliopoesy (bib-li-o-po-e-zi; accent on *po*), the making of books.

Bibliopolar (bib-li-o-po-lar; accent on *po*), bibliopolic. [Rare.]

Bibliopole (bib-li-o-pole; accent on *bib*), a bookseller; now, especially a dealer in rare and curious books.

Biblionolic, ical (bib-li-o-pol-ik, i-kal; accent on *pol*), relating to bookselling or booksellers.

Bibliopolically (accent on *pol*), by bibliopoles; as a bibliopole.

Bibliopolism (accent on *up*), bookselling; the business of a bibliopolist.—*Dibdin*. [Rare.]

Bibliopolist (accent on *op*), a bookseller; a bibliopole.

If civility, quickness and intelligence be the chief requisites of a *bibliopolist*, the young Frere stands not in need of parental aid for the prosperity of his business.—*Dibdin*.

Bibliopolistic (accent on *lis*), relating to a bookseller or to bookselling. [Rare.]

Bibliopoly (accent on *op*), bookselling.

Bibliotaph (accent on *bib*), one who hides or buries books, or keeps them under lock and key.

A *bibliotaph* buries his books by keeping them under lock, or by framing them in glass cases.
— *J. D'Israeli*.

Bibliothec (bib-li-o-thek; accent on *bib*), a library.

Bibliotheca (bib-li-o-the-ka; accent on *the*), a library; a place to keep books; a collection of books.

Cairo was once celebrated for its magnificent collection of books. Besides private libraries, each large mosque had its *bibliotheca*.

— *R. F. Burton*.

Bibliothecal (accent on *the*), belonging to a library.

Bibliothecarian (bib-li-o-the-ka-ri-an; accent on *ka*), of or pertaining to a bibliothecary or librarian.

We confess a *bibliothecarian* avarice that gives all books a value in our eyes.—*Lowell*.

Bibliothecary (bib-li-oth-e-ka-ri; accent on *oth*), a librarian; a library; of or pertaining to a library or librarian.

Bibliotics (bib-li-ot-iks; accent on *ot*), the study of the essential character of documents and the determination of the individual character of handwriting.

These contributions are contained in a published treatise by Dr. Frazer on this subject termed "*Bibliotics or the Study of Documents*."—*Jour. Franklin. Inst.*, Apr., 1905.

Sibulous.

Bibulous (bib-u-lus; accent on *bib*, *u* as in *mute* shortened in rapid utterance) means imbibing readily fluids or moisture, as *bibulous* blotting paper.

The soul that ascends to worship the great God is plain and true * * * having become porous to thought and *bibulous* of the sea of light.—*Emerson*.

Bibulous is also used to describe a person fond of drinking intoxicating liquor; as, "We fear he has *bibulous* propensities."

Bicephalic.

Bicephalic (bi-se-fal-ik; accent on *fal*, or bi-sef-a-lik; accent on *sef*) means having two heads. It is used specifically to indicate ornamented with two heads or busts, as engraved gems or the like.

Biduous.

Biduous (accent on *bid*) means lasting two days, as certain flowers.

Biferous.

Biferous (accent on *bif*) means bearing fruit twice a year.

Bifurcate.

Bifurcate (bi-fur-kate; accent on *fur*) means to divide into two branches; two-pronged.

At present the gulf stream *bifurcates* in mid-Atlantic, one branch passing northeastward and the other southeastward.—*J. Croll*.

"A long, gray coat concealed her *bifurcated* skirt."

Bijou.

Bijou (be-zhu; accent on the second syllable) means an object of beauty of small size, or any relatively small charming object.

"That cottage is a *bijou*."

Bilingual.

Bilingual means containing or expressed in two languages.

Bilinguist.

One who speaks two languages.

Billet-doux.

Billet-doux, a French word (bil-e-doo; accent on *doo*), means a love letter or note.

A lover chanting out a *billet-doux*.

—*Spectator*.

Biology.

Biology (*i* as in *isle*; accent on *ol*), means, in its widest sense, the science of life and living things. Technically, the life history of an animal.

Biologist.

A *biologist* (*i* as in *isle*; accent on *ol*) is a student of *biology*, the science of life, or living tissue.

Biolytic.

Biolytic (*i* as in *isle*; accent on *lit*) relates to the destruction of life.

Bivouac.

Bivouac (biv-wak, or biv-oo-ak; accent on *biv*), means to encamp temporarily, especially to encamp for the night without tents.

Bizarre.

Bizarre (bi-zar; accent on the last syllable, *i* as in *it*, *a* as in *arm*) means odd, grotesque, fantastic.

“Her costume was rather *bizarre*.”

Blague.

Blague means to tell lies in jest. Pretentious falsehood.

Blandish.

Blandish means to influence with flattering speech.

Blandishment.

Blandishment means cajolery, soothing or coaxing speech or action.

Blandishments will not fascinate us.

—Webster.

Blandly.

Blandly means with suavity; affably.

Blatant.

Blatant (bla-tant; accent on *bla*, *a* as in *fate*) means (1) loud or noisy, sometimes offensively so, as a *blatant* demagogue; (2) a bellowing or bleating noise made by an animal, as the calf stood *blatant* at the gate; (3) resounding or echoing, as the *blatant* roar of the storm.

Boanerges.

Boanerges (bo-a-ner-jiz or ges; accent on *ner*), meaning in the original plural sense "sons of thunder," is applied to a vehement and blatant orator; as, "That preacher is a *Boanerges*."

Blazon.

Blazon means to make widely known; to proclaim.

"His good deeds were *blazoned* to all the world.

Blazonry.

In heraldry, *blazonry* is the art of depicting heraldic devices; coat of arms. In general, ostentatious display, as "the *blazonry* of wealth."

Blithe, Blithesome.

Blithe or *blithesome* (blithe or soft *th*), means joyous, cheerful.

"She was a *blithe* and buxom maiden."

"She was *blithesome* and gay."

Bohemian.

Bohemian means unconventional, free.

"He is a veritable *Bohemian*."

Bolus.

Bolus (bo-lus; accent on *bo*) means a rounded mass of anything, especially a large pill. Figuratively, anything disagreeable, as an unpalatable doctrine or argument that has to be accepted or tolerated.

There is no help for it, the faithful proselytizer if she cannot convince by argument, bursts into tears and the recusant finds himself at the end of the contest taking down the *bolus*, saying, Well, well, Bodger be it."—*Thackeray*.

Bonhomie.

Bonhomie (bon-o-me; accent on *me*) means a pleasant, good-natured manner.

"She answered with the utmost *bonhomie*."

Boniface.

Boniface means an innkeeper, a hotel landlord, so named from the character of that name in Farquhar's "Beaux Stratagem."

Boomerang.

A *boomerang* is a curved wooden missile used in war by the native Australians, which may be made to fly in such a way as to return and strike the ground behind the thrower. Hence, any act or statement that recoils upon the author.

“His attack upon the congressmar proved a boomerang.”

Boreal.

Boreal (accent on *bo*, *o* as in *old*), means relating to the north, or the north wind.

Boreas.

Boreas (accent on *bo*; *o* as in *old*), is the north wind personified.

Bosky.

Bosky means woody, full of thickets.

“In lowliest depths of *bosky* dells.—*Whittier*.

Botanic.

Botanic (or botanical) relates to the study or cultivation of plants, and is the form used in the names of institutions, as the *Botanic* Gardens at Kew.

“To *botanize* is to explore in search of *botanic* specimens.”

Bourgeois.

Bourgeois (bour-zhwo; accent on *zhwo*; *o* as in *on*) in France is a person of second rank; hence, lacking in refinement; common, or mean.

Bourgeoisie.

Bourgeoisie (bour-zhwo-ze; accent on *ze*), means the French middle class, but is often applied to the middle class of any country.

“It was the *bourgeoisie* that bought his books and poured its gold into his money sack.”

—*Jack London*.

Buncombe.

Buncombe (bun-kum; accent on the first syllable) means anything said for mere show. It is a cant term.

“Candid discussion is welcome, but let us be spared *buncombe*.”

Burlesque.

Burlesque (accent on *lesk*) means to represent mockingly or ludicrously.

“The Gridiron Club *burlesques* the leading men of the nation.”

Cabal.

Cabal (ka-bal; accent on *bal*), means a number of persons secretly united for purposes of plot or intrigue, and is usually a conspiracy of leaders.

Cabalistic.

Cabalistic (accent on *lis*), means having a mystic sense; mysterious.

The sage, with motion doubly mystic,
Resumed his juggling *cabalistic*.

—*Austin Dobson*.

Cachet.

Cachet (kash-et; accent on *et*), means a seal, hence, any distinctive mark or stamp of individuality; as, the *cachet* of fashion.

Cachinate.

Cachinate (kak-i-nate; accent on *kak*), means to laugh immoderately.

Cachinnation.

Cachinnation (kak-i-na-shun; accent on *na*), means loud or uncontrollable laughter.

Some whiffing husky *cachinnations*, as if they were laughing through wood.—*Carlyle*.

Cadaverous.

Cadaverous (accent on *dav*), means deathly pale, ghastly.

A tall, meagre, *cadaverous*-looking man.
—*Irving*.

Cadence.

Cadence (ka-dens; accent on *ka*), rythmical movement, as in poetry, etc., modulation, as of the voice.

“The sweet *cadence* of her voice delighted the ear, and lingered long in the memory.”

Cadent.

Cadent (accent on the first syllable), means falling; as, *cadent* notes.

Caitiff.

Caitiff (ka-tif; accent on *ka*), means cowardly, basely wicked.

The *caitiff* Monk for gold did swear.—*Scott*.

Cajole.

Cajole (ka-jole; accent on *jole*), means to dupe by flattering speech or delusive promises.

“He *cajoled* the people with fair promises.”

Cajolery (accent on *jo*), means blandishment, flattery.

Caliber or Calibre.

Caliber or *calibre* means, (1) the size of the bore of a gun, etc.; (2) the degree of individual capacity, especially of intellectual power.

—*Browning*.

Calligraphy.

Calligraphy (kal-lig-ra-fi; accent on *lig*) means elegant penmanship; also, penmanship in general.

“The arts of *calligraphy* and of illustration became their [the monks] pride.”

Callous.

Callous means hardened, as of the skin by constant rubbing; hence, unfeeling, indifferent.

"He was *callous* to the sufferings of those around him."

Callow.

Callow means unfledged, as of a nestling bird; hence, without knowledge of the world; youthful.

Pluffle's mama adored him. She was only a little less *callow* than Pluffles, and she believed everything he said.—*Kipling*.

Calumniate.

Calumniate (accent on *lum*) means to asperse with calumny or slander.

Calumny (accent on *cal*) is a false and mali-

Calumny.

cious accusation or report.

Envy and *calumny* and hate and pain
Can touch him not and torture not again.

—*Shelley*.

Canard.

Canard (accent on *nard*) means an untruthful, sensational statement; especially one published in a newspaper; a hoax.

"The *canard* appeared in all the evening papers."

Canorous.

Canorous (ka-no-rus; accent on *no*) means having a singing quality; melodious.

Latin has given us most of our *canorous* words, only they must not be confounded with merely sonorous ones.—*Lowell*.

Cantaloupe.

Cantaloup is written in several ways; thus: *cantaloupe*, *cantaleup*, *canteloup*. The *o* in *loup*

is pronounced either as *o* in *food*, or *o* as in *old*; accent is on the first syllable.

Capacitate.

Capacitate (ca-pas-i-tate; accent on *pas*) means to render capable or fit.

Capitulate.

Capitulate means to surrender; to come to terms.

“The army *capitulated*.”

Captious.

Captious means inclined to find fault, particularly about unimportant things; hypercritical; as, a *captious* person.

Carp.

Carp means to find fault petulantly.

“It is better to admire a man’s good qualities than to *carp* at his faults.”

Castigate.

Castigate means to punish with a rod or to rebuke severely.

Castigation means a whipping; rebuke.

“She cowered under the the sting of the verbal *castigation* he gave her.”

Casual.

Casual means to happen by chance.

Their *casual* meeting led to important results.

Casualty.

Casualty means a fatal or serious accident; as, the *casualties of war*.

Casuistry.

Casuistry (cazh-yu-ist-ri; accent on *cazh*) means sophistical reasoning upon moral ques-

tions. Also, undue subtlety or hair-splitting distinctions in questions of conscience.

Cataclasm.

Cataclasm (cat-a-clasm; accent on *cat*) means a violent disruption.

Cataclysm.

Cataclysm means any overwhelming flood of water, or any sudden and overwhelming change.

Such a *cataclysm* as the French Revolution seems to interrupt the continuity of history.

—*Dondeu*.

Catechise.

Catechise means to question in a searching manner, especially with a view to reproof.

Categorical.

Categorical (accent on *gor*) means absolute, explicit, and is the opposite of hypothetical.

A *categorical* answer is an express and pertinent reply to a question proposed.—*Fleming*.

“He not only denied the accusations *categorically*, but made counter-charges.”

Category.

Category means any comprehensive class or order of things; a class, condition or predicament. In popular language category is used in an indifferent sense; predicament often in an ill sense. One may be in the same *category* or the same predicament; but in an awkward or dangerous predicament, not *category*.

Cathedra.

Cathedra (cath-e-dra; accent on *cath*) means a bishop's seat or throne in a cathedral; a pro-

fessor's chair *ex cathedra* means officially or with authority; also, officially uttered.

Catholic.

Besides its religious interpretation, *catholic* means comprehensive, universal in reach.

A *catholic* intellect is not to be created by resolve.—*Martineau*.

Causal.

Causal, constituting a cause; as, a *causal* antecedent.

Caustic.

Caustic means corrosive; hence, anything biting, as sarcasm.

Cavil.

Cavil (accent on *cav*) means to find fault or to pick flaws.

There is always a disposition, also to *cavil* at the conduct of those in authority.—*Irving*.

Cavalcade.

Cavalcade (cav-al-kade; accent on *kade*) means a procession on horseback.

Cavalier.

Cavalier, noun (cav-a-lerc; accent on *lerc*) means variously a horse-soldier; an equestrian; a gay military man. *Cavalier*, adjective, means disdainful, haughty, supercilious; also free and easy, offhand, as, a *cavalier* answer.

Cavallerly.

Cavalierly, means haughtily, disdainfully; as, to treat one *cavalierly*.

Cavernous.

Cavernous means like a cavern; hollow, deep-set. "His dark, *cavernous* eyes glowed like live coals."

Celebrity.

Celebrity (accent on *leb*) means great distinction; a celebrated person or public character.

"He was one of the *celebrities* of the age."

Celerity.

Celerity (accent on *ler*) means rapidity; and, in modern usage, refers chiefly to the movements of living beings. It is distinguished from velocity.

The march was made with all possible *celerity*.—*Sheridan*.

Cellibate.

Celibate (sel-i-bate; accent on *sel*) means one who remains unmarried; especially a man so bound by a religious vow.

Cenobite.

Cenobite (sen-o-bite; accent on *sen*) means a monk as distinguished from a religious recluse, or anchorite.

Now the flashing phantom of heavenly choirs, and then the dim response of cowed and earthly *Cenobites*.—*D'Israeli*.

Cenotaph.

Cenotaph (sen-o-taf; accent on *sen*) is a monument erected to the dead, but not containing the remains.

A cenotaph his name and title kept.

—*Dryden*.

Censorious.

Censorious (accent on *so*) means given to judging harshly; as a *censorious* spirit.

Censurable.

Censurable (sen-shur-a-bl; accent on *sen*) means culpable, blameworthy; as, *censurable* conduct. *Reprehensible* is a strong term, but all these words are used of acts that are less than criminal or wicked.

Ceramic.

Ceramic (ser or ker-am-ik; accent on *am*) means relating to pottery.

Ceramist.

Ceramist (ser or ker-a-mist; accent on *ker*) is one skilled in ceramics either as craftsman or connoisseur.

"He is a noted *ceramist*."

Cerebration.

Cerebration (accent on *ser*) means brain action, whether conscious or unconscious.

"We often attribute our acts to the workings of unconscious *cerebration*."

Cerement.

Cerement (ser-ment; accent on *ser*, *e* as in *eve*) means a garment or covering for the dead, especially a waxed cloth. Hence, any wrapping that binds like grave-clothes.

This is the man who loosed Christianity from the *cerements* of Judaism.—*Farrar*.

Cerise.

Cerise (se-reze; accent on *reze*) means of a cherry-red color.

"She wore a gown of *cerise* satin."

Certify.

Certify (ser-ti-fi; accent on *ser*) means, applied to persons, to assure or make certain; as, "I *certified* you of the fact." Applied to things, *certify* means to vouch for.

Certitude.

Certitude means perfect assurance concerning a fact or reality.

Cerulean.

Cerulean (se-ru-le-an; accent on *ru*) means sky-blue.

Blue—blue—as if that sky let fall

A flower from its *cerulean* wall.—*Bryant*.

Cervantic.

Cervantic means pertaining to Cervantes, the author of *Don Quixote*.

Cessant.

Cessant means resting; dormant.

Cessation.

Cessation (se-sa-shon; accent on *sa*) means discontinuance of motion or action.

Chagrin.

Chagrin (sha-grin or sha-grene; accent on the last syllable) means vexation or mental disquiet because of failure of plans, want of appreciation, and the like; to feel mortified.

"She was *chagrined* to find that the matter had become public."

Oh trifling head and fickle heart,

Chagrined at whatsoe'er thou art.

—*Warton*.

Chalice.

Chalice (chal-is; accent on *chal*) means a drinking cup or bowl.

Chameleon.

Chameleon (ka-me-le-on; accent on *me*), the name of a lizard-like reptile possessing an extraordinary faculty of changing its color to conform to that of the objects by which it is surrounded. Hence, changeable in disposition.

I fear thee and thy *chameleon* spirit.

—*Shelley*.

Chaos.

Chaos (ka-os; accent on *ka*) means in one of its definitions confusion, disorder.

“*Chaos* reigned supreme.”

Chaotic.

Chaotic (ka-ot-ik; accent on *ot*) means confused, without order.

The *chaotic* tumult of his mind.—*Disraeli*.

Chaperon.

Chaperon (shap-e-rone; accent on *shap*), a married woman who in accordance with the rules of etiquette accompanies young people in public places.

Mrs. B. was the *chaperon*.

Chaperonage.

Chaperonage means the protection of a chaperon.

“They attended the opera under the *chaperonage* of Mrs. B.”

Characteristic.

Characteristic means indicating the character of; distinctive.

“His act was *characteristic* of his kindly nature.”

Chary.

Chary (char-y; accent on *char*, *a* as in *mate*) means cautious, wary, frugal.

“She was *chary* in her praise.”

Charivari.

Charivari (shar-i-var-i, accent on *var*; *a* as in *at*, in *shar* and *var*) means a mock serenade intended as an annoyance or insult.

There is a respectable difference between a mob and a *charivari*.—*Geo. W. Cable*.

Charlatan.

Charlatan (shar-la-tan; accent on *shar*) means one who pretends to a knowledge he does not possess.

“He is the greatest *charlatan* of the age.”

Charlatanism.

Charlatanism (accent on the first syllable) means the same as charlatancy (accent on *shar*), wheedling, undue pretensions to skill; quackery.

Charnel.

Charnel means sepulchral, ghastly.

Chartism.

Chartism refers to the principles of the Chartists, a body of political reformers (chiefly workingmen), who sprang up in England about the year 1838.

Chartless.

Not provided with a chart; hence, without guide or guidance; as, a *chartless* traveler.

Chastise.

Chastise (chas-tize; accent on *tize*) means to punish with the rod.

Chastisement.

Chastisement (chas-tiz-ment; accent on *chas*) means the infliction of punishment; discipline.

Chatoyant.

Chatoyant (sha-toi-ant; accent on *toi*) means changing in luster or color like a cat's eye in the dark.

Chatoyment.

Chatoyment means a play of colors.

Chattel.

Chattel (chat-el or l; accent on *chat*) means movable assets.

"He regarded her as *chattel*."

Chauvinism.

Chauvinism (show, accented) means absurdly exaggerated patriotism or military enthusiasm.

Arming himself with an awful weapon . . . which was called grandiose *chauvinism*, he rode forth to battle.—*R. H. Little*.

Cherubic.

Cherubic (accent on *ru*) means angelic, as, *cherubic* innocence.

Note.—In the five following words, *i* is short, as in *it*.

Chiaroscuro.

Chiaroscuro (kia-ros-kö-ric; accent on *kö*; *o* as in *move*; *i* in *kia* like *i* in *it*) means pertaining to chiaroscuro; also written *chiaro-oscuro*.

Chiaroscuro, Chiaro-oscuro.

Chiaroscuro (kia-ros-kö-ro; accent on *kö*; *ö* as in *move*; *i* in *kia* like *i* in *it*) means light and shade; drawing in black and white.

Chiaroscuroist.

Chiaroscuroist (kia-ros-kö-rist; accent on *kö*; ö as in *move*) means an artist who draws in *chiaroscuro*.

Chic.

Chic (*sheek*), a slang expression meaning stylish; effective in style; adroitness.

Chicane, Chicanery.

Chicane (shi-kane; accent on *kane*), or *chicanery* (shi-ka-ner-i; accent on *ka*) means trickery, sophistry.

Men who by legal *chicanery* cheat others out of their property.—*H. Spencer*.

Chimera.

Chimera (ki-me-ra; accent on *me*), meaning originally a fabled monster; in ornamental art a fantastic assemblage of animal forms making a single complete but unnatural design; hence, an absurd or impossible creature of the imagination, a vain or idle fancy.

All contributed to stimulate the appetite for the incredible *chimeras* of chivalry.—*Prescott*.

Chimerical.

Chimerical (ki-mer-i-kal; accent on *mer*) means unreal, preposterous, or incapable of realization.

Think not that there is anything *chimerical* in such an attempt.—*Goldsmith*.

Note.—In the seven following words, *i* is long, as in *isle*.

Chiromnomy.

Chiromnomy (ki-rog-no-mi; accent on *rog*) is the art of determining character from the shape or lines of the hand.

Chirographer.

Chirographer (ki-rog-ra-fer; accent on *rog*) means one who makes a business of copying or writing.

Chirography.

Chirography (ki-rog-ra-f; accent on *rog*) means handwriting, its style or character.

Chirolology.

Chirolology (ki-rol-o-ji, accent on *rol*) means the use of the manual alphabet, that is, signs made with the hands and fingers, as by deaf-mutes.

Chiromancer.

Chiromancer (ki-ro-man-ser; accent on *ki*) means one who foretells the future by reading the lines of the hand.

Chiromancy.

Chiromancy (ki-ro-man-si; accent on *ki*), the same as palmistry.

Chironomic.

Chironomic (ki-ro-nom-ik; accent on *nom*) means relating to the art of gesticulation.

Chivalric.

Chivalric (shiv-al-rik; accent on *shiv*) means knightly, gallant.

Chivalrous.

Chivalrous (shiv-al-rus; accent on *shiv*) means brave, magnanimous, having the qualities of an ideal knight of old.

The instinct of the *chivalrous* gentleman asserted itself above the dread of death or the feeling of rank.—*Nicolay* and *Hay*.

Chivalry.

Chivalry (shiv-al-ri, accent on *shiv*) means the spirit of knighthood; hence, disinterested courtesy.

The only *chivalry* worth having is that which is readiest to pay deference to the old, regardless of rank, age, or color.—*L. M. Alcott*.

Choler.

Choler (kol-er; accent on *kol*) means anger, irascibility.

“I felt my *choler* rising.”

Throw cold water on thy *choler*.

—*Shakespeare*.

Choleric.

Choleric (kol-e-rik; accent on *kol*) means easily irritated; as a *choïeric* temper.

Choragus.

Choragus (ko-ra-gus; accent on *ra*) means figuratively any leader or conductor.

Choral.

Choral (ko-ral; accent on *ko*; *o* as in *old*) means pertaining to a chorus; as, a *choral* society.

Choralist.

Choralist (ko-ral-ist); accent on *ko*; *o* as in *old*) means a member of a chorus or choir.

Chorister.

Chorister (kor-is-ter; accent on *kor*) means a member of a choir, specially a male singer in a church choir.

The gentleman *choristers* had evidently been chosen, like old Cremona fiddles, more for tone than looks.—*Irving*.

Chrematistics.

Chrematistics (kre-ma-tis-tiks; accent on *tis*) means political economy as a whole.

Chrestomathy.

Chrestomathy (kres-tom-a-thi; accent on *tom*) means a collection of extracts, especially from a foreign language, with explanatory notes; as, a Hebrew *chrestomathy*.

Chromatics.

Chromatics (kro-mat-iks; accent on *mat*) means the science of colors.

Chronal.

Chronal (kro-nal; accent on *kro*) means relating to time.

Chronic.

Chronic (kron-ik; accent on *kron*) means continuing a long time.

“The evil has become *chronic*.”

Chronicity.

Chronicity (kro-nis-i-ti; accent on *nis*) means a chronic state; as, the *chronicity* of a disease.

Chronicle.

Chronicle (kron-i-kl; accent on *kron*) means to record.

“This good deed is *chronicled* in heaven.”

Chrysalis.

Chrysalis (kris-a-lis; accent on *kris*) means the inactive insect form enclosed in a shell from which the perfect insect emerges; hence, any object in a transitory or undeveloped stage of existence.

The imprisoned *Chrysalis* is now a winged Psyche.—*Carlyle*.

Chthonian.

Chthonian (tho-ni-an; accent on *tho*) means subterranean; springing from the earth; also, autochthonous, native.

Churl, Churlish.

Churl (*cherl*; *e* as in *err*) means a low-bred man, a stingy person.

We know not why riches are often given to the *churl*, while persons of a liberal and bountiful spirit have their hands chained up with poverty.—*Watson*.

Churlish.

Churlish means rude, ill-mannered, sullen, uncivil; also stingy or sordid.

This sullen *churlish* thief.—*King*.

Cibarious.

Cibarious (si-ba-ri-us; accent on *ba*) means useful for food, edible; as, "*cibarious* herbs."

Cicatrice, Cicatrix.

Cicatrice (sik-a-tris, or *trix*) means a scar.

Cicerone.

Cicerone (sis-e-ro-ne; accent on *ro*) means a guide, specially one who shows the curiosities of a place to travelers.

"We were fortunate in having with us a faithful *cicerone*."

Ci-devant.

Ci-devant (se-de-von; accent on *von*) means former, *ex*; as, "the *ci-devant* commander."

Much they marveled to see the wealth of the *ci-devant* blacksmith.—*Longfellow*.

Cimellum.

Cimellum (si-me-li-um; accent on *me*) means one of the more precious articles in a museum; or, any valuable stored away.

Cimmerian.

Cimmerian (si-me-ri-an; accent on *me*) means very dark, obscure. The word relates to the Cimmerii, a mythical people, said to dwell where perpetual darkness reigns. Hence the expression, "*Cimmerian* darkness."

Cincture.

Cincture (singk-ture; accent on *singk*) means to encompass or gird. Figuratively, anything that encircles.

The seven hills of Rome were first united within the *cincture* of a single wall.

—*Chas. Merivale.*

Cinerary.

Cinerary (sin-e-ra-ri; accent on *sin*) relates to ashes. A *cinerary* urn is an urn to hold the ashes of the cremated dead.

Cinereous.

Cinereous (si-ne-re-us; accent on *ne*) means like ashes; ash-color.

Cinque-cento.

Cinque-cento (chingk-we-chen-to), an abbreviation for 1500, relates to the sixteenth century, especially with reference to Italy, its art, etc.

Circean.

Circean (ser-se-an; accent on *se*) means bewitching, magical, and is used in a degrading sense.

The four years during which I was under the *Circean* spells of opium.—*De Quincey.*

Circuit.

Circuit (ser-kit; accent on *ser*) means a circular movement, or journey.

"He has just completed a *circuit* of the globe."

Circuitous.

Circuitous (ser-ku-i-tus; accent on *ku*) means not direct, roundabout; as, "a *circuitous* march."

Circuity.

Circuity (ser-ku-i-ty; accent on *ku*) means a roundabout manner of moving or acting.

Circulatory.

Circulatory (ser-ku-la-to-ri; accent on *ser*) means going about, circulating; as, "*circulatory* peregrinations."

Circumambient.

Circumambient (ser-kum-am-bi-ent; accent on *am*) means surrounding on all sides, encompassing.

Revealing, what the lightning flash does, the *circumambient* darkness.—*McCosh*.

Circumambulate.

Circumambulate (ser-kum-am-bu-late; accent on *am*) means to walk roundabout; to *circumambulate* the grounds.

Circumfluent.

Circumfluent (ser-kum-flu-ent; accent on *kum*). means surrounding as a fluid.

The deep *circumfluent* waves.—*Pope*.

Circumfuse.

Circumfuse (ser-kum-fuze; accent on *fuze*) means to spread about, suffuse.

Appeared a face all *circumfused* with light.
—*B. Jonson*.

Circumlocution.

Circumlocution (ser-kum-lo-ku-shon; accent on *ku*) means an indirect or evasive way of speaking or writing, especially when a direct statement is intentionally avoided.

Circumlocutory.

Circumlocutory (ser-kum-lok-u-to-ri; accent on *lok*) means roundabout; as, "a diffused *circumlocutory* manner."

Circumscribed.

Circumscribed (ser-kum-skribd; accent on *skribd*) means limited; narrow, as applied to the mind.

Circumspect.

Circumspect (ser-kum-spect; accent on *ser*) means literally looking about on all sides. Hence, examining carefully; cautious; wary.

High-reaching Buckingham grows *circumspect*.—*Shakespeare*.

Circumspection.

Circumspection (ser-kum-spek-shon; accent on *pek*) means watchfulness, caution.

He shook his head, and observed that an affair of this sort required the greatest *circumspection*.—*Goldsmith*.

Circumstanced.

Placed or situated.

A government so *circumstanced* was powerless to do good.—*Brougham*.

Circumvent.

Circumvent (ser-kum-vent; accent on *vent*) means to outwit; as, to *circumvent* an enemy.

Circumvolution.

Circumvolution (ser-kum-vo-lu-shon; accent on *lu*) means a turning round.

He had neither time nor temper for sentimental *circumvolutions*.—*D'Israeli*.

Citable.

Citable (si-ta-bl; accent on *si*; *i* as in *isle*) means that may be cited. *Cite* means to introduce or quote for argument or exemplification.

Citation.

Citation (si-ta-shon; accent on *ta*; *i* as in *isle*) means, in law, a summons; also, a quotation.

Civic.

Civic (siv-ik; accent on *siv*) means relating to a city or citizens; as, *civic* rights, *civic* duties.

Clamber.

Clamber (klam-ber; accent on *klam*) means to climb with difficulty; as, to *clamber* over the rocks.

Clamor.

Clamor (klam-or; accent on *klam*) means loud outcry, confusion of shouts.

"The *clamor* raised by the populace penetrated to the palace."

Clandestine.

Clandestine (klan-des-tine; accent on *des*) means secret, surreptitious, underhand; as, "a *clandestine* meeting."

Clangor.

Clangor (klang-gor, or klan-gor; accent on first syllable) means a loud, shrill noise as of metals striking together.

Clannish.

Clannish means having a strong feeling of fraternity; prejudiced socially.

Claque.

Claque (pronounced *kīak*) applies to a set of men paid to applaud in a theater; hence, any band of admirers praising or applauding from interested motives.

Clarify.

Clarify means to free from impurities; to make clear; hence, to illumine. to render intelligible; as, "to *clarify* a subject."

Clarion.

Clarion applies to a trumpet of a shrill, clear tone; hence, any ringing call; also, used to express renown; as, "a *clarion* speech, *clarion* deeds."

The cock's shrill *clarion*, or the echoing horn,
No more shall rouse them from their lowly bed.

—Gray.

What ever 'scaped Oblivion's subtle wrong
Save a few *clarion* names, or golden threads of
song?

—Lowell.

Classic.

Classic is that which is authoritative as a model, or a standard of excellence; an author or book of the first rank, specifically Greek or Roman.

A *classic* is properly a book . . . which can be simple without being vulgar, elevated without being distant, and which is something neither ancient nor modern, always new and incapable of growing old.—Lowell.

Cleave. V. t.

Cleave means to divide with violence, to split; especially to cut with the grain; as, "to *cleave* wood."

Cleave. V. i.

Cleave means to cling; to adhere to; also, to remain faithful to.

Cleave to thine acre; the round year
Will fetch all fruits and virtues here.

—*Emerson.*

Clemency.

Clemency (klem-en-si; accent on *klem*) means mildness, forbearance.

Clement.

Clement (klem-ent; accent on *klem*) means lenient, merciful; mild as applied to the weather.

You are more *clement* than vile men,
Who of their debtors take a third.

—*Shakespeare.*

The wind was contrary, and blew in furious gusts; nor were the aspects of nature any more *clement* than the doings of the sky.

—*R. L. Stevenson.*

Clerical.

Clerical, relating to the clergy; as, "the *clerical* garb." It also relates to a clerk or to penmanship; as, "a *clerical* position;" "a *clerical* error."

Clientage.

Clientage (kli-en-taj; accent on *kli*; *i* as *i* in *mite*) means a body of clients or patrons.

Clientele.

Clientele (kli-en-teel, or tel; French pronunciation, kle-on'-tale, *n* nasalized) means those

under the protection or patronage of a person or house; a following. Also, those who frequent a particular institution; as, the *clientele* of a theater.

Climacteric.

Climacteric (kli-mak-ter-ik, accent on *ter*; or kli-mak-te-rik, accent on *mak*) means relating to a climax; as, the *climacteric* effect. Also marking a crisis, or a critical year of life; as, 63 years is the grand *climacteric*.

"The play abounded in *climacteric* effects."

Climactic.

Relating to climax; ascending in thought or expression.

Climatic.

Climatic (kli-mat-ik; accent on *mat*) refers to the climate.

Climatize or tise.

Climatize (kli-ma-tiz; accent on *kli*; *i* in *kli* like *i* in *isle*, *i* in *tiz* like *i* in *it*) means to acclimate.

Climax.

Climax means the highest step; the culmination; the zenith.

Clime.

Clime is a poetical word meaning climate, region.

Whatever *clime* the sun's bright circle warms.
—*Milton*.

Clinic.

Clinic (klin-ik; accent on *klin*) means the teaching of medicine or surgery in the presence of patients, as in a hospital or dispensary.

"He attended the *clinic* twice a week."

Clique.

Clique (kleek) means a small, exclusive party or set.

“The village society was divided into several *cliques*.”

Cloddish.

Cloddish means boorish, coarse.

Cloister.

In architecture, a *cloister* is an arcade or covered walk round an open court.

“These *cloisters* are among the things for which we have reason to envy the old world.”

Closure.

Closure is the act of shutting up. The procedure of stopping further debate in a deliberative body.

Cloy.

Cloy means to satiate; to fill to loathing, as with sweetness or richness. Also, to stop up.

Cloyed with the luscious figs of Dalmanutha.
—*Longfellow*.

Coach.

Coach means to tutor, to train; as, “to *coach* a student,” or “a crew.”

Coadjacent.

Coadjacent means near a common point.

Coadjutor.

Coadjutor (ko-ad-ju-tor; accent on *ju*) means a colleague, specially one appointed to assist in official duties; as, “the *coadjutor* of the diocese.”

Coagulate.

Coagulate means to become clotted or curdled.

Coalesce.

Coalesce means to come together in one mass; to unite.

Parties *coalesce* when they agree to lay aside their leading distinctions of opinions so as to coöperate.—*Crabb*.

Coalition.

Coalition means a voluntary joining of persons or parties specially for temporary purposes.

“The measure was passed by the *coalition* of the democrats and the insurgent republicans.”

Coctile.

Coctile (kok-til; accent on *kok*; *i* as in *ill*) means made by baking, as a brick or porcelain.

Codify.

Codify (accent on *cod*; *o* as in *on*) means to arrange in a code; as, “to *codify* signals.”

Coerce.

Coerce means to compel or force either to do or to refrain from doing.

“Members of the assembly were *coerced* into voting for the measure.”

Coeval.

Coeval (ko-e-val; accent on *e*; *e* as in *eel*) means of the same length of existence; dating from the same time; of equal age. *Coeval* is usually applied to things, *contemporary* to persons, but the distinction is not rigid.

This religion cannot pretend to be *coeval* with man.—*Hale*.

Addison, Swift, and Pope were *contemporaries*.

Cogency.

Cogency (ko-jen-si; accent on *ko*; *o* as in *old*) means convincing force, moral or logical; as, the *cogency* of an argument.

Cogent.

Cogent (ko-jent; accent on *ko*; *o* as in *old*) means compelling belief; powerful; as, to present *cogent* reasons for pursuing a particular course.

Cogitable.

Cogitable (accent on *cog*) means that which may be a subject of thought.

Cogitate.

Cogitate means to reflect; to think over; to consider.

“He *cogitated* long before deciding to go.”

Cogitative.

Cogitative (accent on *cog*; *a* as in *ta* shortened in rapid utterance), contemplative; given to meditation.

The earl being by nature somewhat more *cogitative*.—*Wotton*.

Cognate.

Cognate (kog-nate, or net; accent on *kog*) means: (1) of the same origin; as, *cognate* languages. (2) Connected by blood or birth; as, the German and English are *cognate* races. (3) Allied by radical characteristics. “There is much in this doctrine that is *cognate* to Calvinism.” (4) In law, specifically, one related to another on the mother’s side, but loosely used to express any blood relation.

Cognition.

Cognition (kog-nish-un; accent on *nish*) means the perception of a fact or truth, the faculty of knowing.

I will not be myself, nor have *cognition*
Of what I feel.—*Shakespeare*.

Cognizable.

Cognizable (kog-ni, or kon-i-za-ble; accent on the first syllable) means that may be known or perceived; as, "A thing *cognizable* by the senses."

In law, that may be brought to judicial notice.

Enormities which are not *cognizable* in any other courts of this realm.—*Tatler*.

Cognizance.

Cognizance (kog, or kon; accent on first syllable) means notice, observation, recognition, knowledge.

"I shall esteem it a favor if you will kindly take *cognizance* of the matter."

Cognomen.

Cognomen (kog-no-men; accent on *no*) means a surname, and is used colloquially to express any appellation.

"His name was John Blank, but he was better known under the *cognomen* of Snowball."

Coherent.

Coherent (ko-her-ent; accent on *her*; *e* as *e* in *meet*) means sticking together; as, *coherent* particles; consistent, logical; as, a *coherent* thinker; adapted, fitted.

That time and place, with this deceit so lawful, may prove *coherent*.—*Shakespeare*.

Cohesion.

Cohesion (ko-he-zhon; accent on *he*) means union, connection; as, "Ideas that have no natural *cohesion*."

Cohesive.

Cohesive (ko-he-siv; accent on *he*) means having the property of sticking together.

Cohort.

Cohort (ko-hort; accent on *ko*) means a troop of soldiers.

Coiffure.

Coiffure (kwoif-fure; accent on the first syllable, French, kwo-fur, French *u*) means the arrangement of the hair.

Coign.

Coign (koin) means a corner or an exposed position. *Coign of vantage* means an advantageous position for observation.

Coincide.

Coincide means to concur, to agree; as, "that *coincides* with his previous statement."

Coincidence.

Coincidence means a circumstance agreeing with another, often implying accident.

"Our meeting him there was a strange *coincidence*."

Collaborate.

Collaborate (kol-lab-o-rate; accent on *lab*) means to labor with another, specially in literary or scientific work.

Collapsible, Collapsable.

Collapsible (kol-lap-si or sa-bl; accent on *lap*) means that may or can collapse or fall together; as, a *collapsible* drinking cup.

Collate.

Collate (kol-late; accent on *late*) means to bring together for the purpose of comparison, specially manuscripts or different editions of a work.

“They could not relinquish Judiasm and embrace Christianity, without weighing and *collating* both religions.

Collation.

Collation (kol-la-shun; accent on *la*, *a* as *a* in *mate*) means variously the critical comparisons of writings, the examination of the sheets of a book before binding; the bestowal of a church living (English) upon a clergyman; a light repast.

I return you your Milton, which, upon *collation*, I find to be revised and augmented.

—*Pope*.

“The *collation* of the printed sheets before binding is for the purpose of detecting errors of arrangement.”

The danger is . . . where the churchmen come in . . . not by the *collation* of the king . . . but by the people.—*Bacon*.

“A *collation* was served at midnight.”

Collectivism.

Collectivism (kol-lek-tiv-ism; accent on *lek*) is the doctrine that the people as a whole should own or control the material and means of production.—*Standard Dictionary*.

Collegian.

Collegian (kol-lee-ji-an; accent on *lee*) means a college student; as the three *collegians*.

Collegiate.

Collegiate (kol-lee-ji-et or ate; accent on *lee*) means relating to a college or conducted like a college; as, a *collegiate* school.

Colligate.

Colligate (kol-i-gate; accent on *kol*) means to bind together, as, in logic to bind facts together by means of a suitable explanation.

He had discovered and *colligated* a multitude of the most wonderful phenomena.—*Tyndall*.

Collocation.

Collocation (kol-o-ka-shon; accent on *ka*) means the placing or the arrangement, as of words.

If elegance consists in the choice and *collocation* of words, you have a most indubitable title to it.—*Sir W. Jones*.

Colloquial.

Colloquial (kol-lo-kwi-al, accent on *lo*) means (1) concerning conversation.

His (Johnson's) *colloquial* talents were, indeed, of the highest order.—*Macaulay*.

(2) Belonging to everyday speech, especially words that are inelegant.

Colloquy.

Colloquy (kol-o-kwi; accent on *kol*) means a conversation something in the nature of a conference or discussion.

"Their *colloquy* lasted an hour.

Colossal.

Colossal (ko-los-al; accent on *los*) means of extraordinary size.

"Industrially useless, they present a *colossal* economic waste."

Columnar.

Columnar (ko-lum-nar; accent on *lum*) means having the form of a column.

Coma.

Coma (ko-ma; accent on *ko*; *o* as in *old*) means prolonged unconsciousness.

Comatose.

Comatose (ko-ma-tose; accent on *ko*; *o* as in *old*) means affected with coma; as, a *comatose* state.

Combative.

Combative (kom or kum-ba-tiv; accent on *kum*) means pugnacious, inclined to fight.

“He was in a *combative* mood.”

Combustible.

Combustible (kum-bus-ti-bl; accent on *bus*) means capable of burning; hence, easily excitable.

Arnold was a *combustible* character.

—*Irving*.

Collude.

Collude (ko-lude; accent on *lude*) means to conspire to defraud or deceive.

How is he to be punished or impeached, if he *colludes* with any of these banks to embezzle the public money?—*D. Webster*.

Collusion.

Collusion (ko-lu-zhon; accent on *lu*, *u* as in *mute*) means acting together secretly for unworthy purposes. *Collusion* is intentionally overlooking, and thus sanctioning something that should be prevented.

Colorature.

Colorature (kul-or-a-ture; accent on *kul*) is a general term for trills, runs, etc. in vocal music; as, "Mme. Sembrick is a great *colorature* artist."

Comely.

Comely (kum-li; accent on *kum*) means good-looking, handsome; as, a *comely* young person.

Comestible.

Comestible (ko-mes-ti-bl; accent on *mes*) means edible, fit for food; also, relating to food; as, corn and other *comestibles*.

Comity.

Comity (kom-i-ti; accent on *kom*) means kindly consideration for the rights of others.

A spirit of *comity* . . . presumed to exist between nations as well as individuals.

—*Greenleaf*.

Comme il faut.

Comme il faut (kom-eel-fo), a French phrase meaning as it should be; according to the rules of good society.

Commendation.

Commendation (kom-en-da-shon; accent on *da*) means approbation.

"The committee passed a resolution of *commendation*."

Commendatory.

Commendatory (accent on *men*) means expressing approval; as, a *commendatory* letter.

Commensurate.

Commensurate (accent on *men*) means corresponding in amount or degree.

“Rome was great, yet she produced no drama *commensurate* with her mighty political genius.”

Commentary.

Commentary (accent on *com*) means anything explanatory or illustrative.

Comminatory.

Comminatory (accent on *min*) means threatening, menacing; as, a *comminatory* note from one power to another.

Commiserate.

Commiserate (accent on *mis*) means to feel compassionate sympathy; as, to *commiserate* a person because of his misfortune.

Commute.

Commute (accent on *mute*) means to exchange one penalty for another less severe.

“His sentence was *commuted* to imprisonment for life.”

Comparable.

Comparable (accent on *com*) means fit to be compared.

But no pleasure is *comparable* to the standing upon the vantage ground of truth.—*Bacon*.

Compensate.

Compensate (accent on either *com* or on *pen*) means to recompense.

Nothing can *compensate* a people for the loss of what we may term civic individuality.

—*Gladstone*.

Competence, Competency.

Competence, competency (accent on *com*) means fitness; also, sufficiency, particularly income.

"He must furnish proof of his *competence*."
Seven years of health and *competence*.

—*Longfellow*.

Complaisance.

Complaisance (kom-pla-zans; accent on *kom*) means affability, a desire to please.

"I fear that you mistake his *complaisance* for approval."

Complaisant.

Complaisant (kom-pla-zant; accent on *kom*) means gracious, obliging.

"The judge was unduly *complaisant*."

Complement.

Complement (accent on *com*) means the full number or amount; as, the company had its *complement* of men. Also, that which is needed to complete something, or something that is added for ornament.

Art must be a *complement* to nature, strictly subsidiary.—*Emerson*.

Compliance.

Compliance (accent on *pli*; *i* as in *isle*) means a yielding.

Compliant.

Compliant (accent on *pli*; *i* as in *isle*) means yielding, consenting.

"The king was *compliant* to the wishes of his subjects."

Component.

Component (accent on *po*; *o* as in *old*) means a constituent part; as, "Oxygen is a *component* part of water."

Comport.

Comport (accent on *port*), when used with a reflexive pronoun, means behave; as, "How did he *comport* himself?" It also means agree, befit.

Ask yourself how this gracious reception of our petition *comports* with those war-like preparations.—*Patrick Henry*.

Composite.

Composite (accent on *poz*; *ite* like *it*; or accent on *com* [*kom*]) means made up of separate parts or elements.

"Man is a *composite* being."

Compos Mentis.

Compos mentis (*kom-pos men-tis*; accent on *kom* and *men*; *o* in *pos* like *o* in *on*) means of sound mind as opposed to *non compos mentis*, of unsound mind.

Concatenate.

Concatenate (accent on *cat* [*kat*]) means to join together in a chain-like series.

"The absence of *concatenated* incidents is a defect in the poem."

Concomitant.

Concomitant (accent on *com*) means an attendant fact or circumstance.

The other *concomitant* of ingratitude is hard-heartedness.—*South*.

Concrete.

(See *Abstract.*)

Condign.

Condign (kon-dine; accent on *dine*; *i* as in *pine*) means merited, well deserved, and is said of censure or punishment.

He threatens them with *condign* punishment.
—*Milman.*

Condiment.

Condiment (accent on *con*) means a seasoning for food; as, spices and other *condiments*.

Condone.

Condone (kon-done; accent on *done*, *o* as in *old*) means to forgive or overlook.

“The public will gladly *condone* his early errors.”

Conduce.

Conduce (accent on *duce*) means to promote an end.

“Contentment *conduces* to happiness.”

Conducive.

Conducive means assisting, contributing to an end.

However *conducive* to the good of our country.—*Addison.*

Conduit.

Conduit (kon or kun-dit; accent on the first syllable) means a canal or pipe for conducting water or other fluid.

All the *conduits* of my blood froze up.

—*Shakespeare.*

Confection.

Confection (accent on *fec* [*fek*]) means a mixture of several ingredients; a sweetmeat. Also a trade term for a ready-made article of dress for women.

Confirmatory.

Confirmatory means tending to confirm or prove.

“The letter proved *confirmatory* of the evidence previously adduced.”

Confluence.

Confluence (accent on *con*) means the meeting of two or more streams; also, a concourse, a flocking together.

“This will draw a *confluence* of people from all parts of the country.”

Confute.

Confute (accent on *fute*) means to disprove. It is often used interchangeably with *refute*, but an *argument* is *confuted* by proving its fallacy, a *charge* is *refuted* by proving the innocence of the accused.

One point, however, they disputed,
And each by turns his mate *confuted*.

—*Hannah More.*

Congé.

Congé (kon-zha; accent on *zha*, *a* as in *ale*; *n* not pronounced, but nasalized), a French word, meaning permission to depart. Specifically, leave-taking; as, to take one's *congé*. Dismissal; as, to give a person his *congé*.

Conglomerate.

Conglomerate (accent on *glom*) means a massed collection of heterogeneous things; as, a *conglomerate* of truth and fiction.

Conglomeration.

Conglomeration means a mixture of incongruous things; as, a conglomeration of sounds.

Congruous.

Congruous (accent on *con*) means suitable; consistent.

"We incline to that which is *congruous* to our disposition."

Conjure.

Conjure (*kun-jer*; accent on *kun*) means to produce by magic; to bewitch; to call into existence.

What black magician *conjures* up this fiend.

—*Shakespeare.*

"We *conjured* up the phantoms of his brain."

Conjure.

Conjure (accent on *jure*) means to invoke or appeal to solemnly.

"She *conjured* him by all that was sacred to make known the truth."

Conjugal.

Conjugal (accent on *con*) means relating to marriage; as, *conjugal* affection.

Connivance.

Connivance (accent on *ni*, *i* as in *isle*) means indirect assent, especially to wrongdoing, by pretended ignorance.

"It could have been done only with the *connivance* of his superior."

Connive.

Connive (accent on *nive*) means to pretend not to see an act that one should in honor prevent; as, to *connive* at wrongdoing.

Connoisseur.

Connoisseur (kon-i-sur, or ser; accent on the last syllable) means a person so thoroughly informed concerning any work or art as to be able to criticize authoritatively.

The *connoisseur* is one who knows, as opposed to the *dilettante*, who only thinks that he knows.—*Fairholt*.

Consanguinity.

Consanguinity (accent on *gwin*) means relationship by blood; as, the ties of *consanguinity*.

Consensual.

Consensual (accent on *sen*) means founded merely on mutual consent; as, a *consensual* contract.

Consensus.

Consensus (accent on *sen*) means a general agreement; as, the *consensus* of opinion seems to be that the measure will fail.

Conservator.

Conservator (accent on *con* and *va*; *a* as in *ate*) means one who protects; as, a *conservator* of the peace.

Conservation.

Conservation (accent on *va*) means protecting from loss or injury, specifically the preservation of forests, fisheries and the like.

Conservative.

Conservative (accent on *serv*) means disinclined to change from the existing order of things; also, moderate; as, a *conservative* estimate.

Conserve.

Conserve (accent on *serve*) means to keep safe; to preserve in its existing state; as, to *conserve* the forces of nature; *conserve* the peace.

Consolatory.

Consolatory (accent on *sol*) means affording consolation; as, *consolatory* thoughts.

Consonant.

Consonant (accent on *con*) means agreeing, consistent, and is followed by *to* or *with*.

What he has done is *consonant* to his views.

"Her thoughts were *consonant* with the beauty of the evening."

Constrain.

Constrain (accent on *strain*) means to compel, to coerce; as, "I feel *constrained* to go."

Consuetude.

Consuetude (kon-sue-tude; accent on *kon*) means custom, use, as opposed to *desuetude* or disuse.

Consummate.

Consummate, v. (accent on *con* or on *sum*) means to bring to completion.

The transaction was *consummated* to the satisfaction of all.

Consummate, a. (accent on *sum*) means of the highest degree, perfect; as, *consummate* art.

Contemn.

Contemn (accent on *temn*) means to scorn, to treat as unworthy of regard.

"I cannot despise those lads of the plow . . . nor can I endure to hear them laughed at or *contemned*."

Contour.

Contour (accent on *kon* or on *tour* [*toor*]) means the outline of a figure; as, the *contour* of a fact.

Contravene.

Contravene (accent on *vene*) means to hinder, to obstruct, or to nullify.

“Laws that *contravene* the constitution.”

Controvert.

Controvert (accent on *vert*) means to disprove by argument; as, to *controvert* a theory.

Contumacious.

Contumacious (accent on *ma*, *a* as in *ale*) means rebellious, refractory.

The *contumacious* resistance which they were in the habit of offering to the authority of the Crown.—*Macaulay*.

Contumacy.

Contumacy (accent on *kon*; *a* in *ma* slighted) means contemptuous disregard of authority.

The witness persisted in his *contumacy*.

—*Addison*.

Contumellous.

Contumelious (accent on *me*, *e* as in *eel*) means contemptuous, rude, taunting.

While the men they agonized for hurled the *contumelious* stone.—*Lowell*.

Contumely.

Contumely (*kon-tu-me-li*; accent on *kon*) means insolent rudeness in speech or manner; as to treat a person with *contumely*.

Conversant.

Conversant (accent on *con*) means to be thoroughly informed.

“His action came as a surprise to those who were *conversant* with the facts.”

Conviviality.

Conviviality (accent on *al*) means the good fellowship that naturally is part of a feast.

“The Puritans tabooed *conviviality* . . . because it was pleasant.”

Corporal.

Corporal (accent on *cor*) means bodily, physical.

“*Corporal* punishment is not resorted to by intelligent beings.”

Corporate.

Corporate means combined as a whole; as, *corporate* rights.

Corporeal.

Corporeal (accent on *po*) means material as opposed to spiritual.

“Many things there are that cannot be seen by the *corporeal* eye.”

Corporeally.

Corporeally means with respect to the body.

It should be remembered that men are mentally no less than *corporeally* gregarious.

—Lowell.

Corporosity.

Corporosity (accent on *ros*), a colloquial and humorous term meaning bodily bulk; as, his huge *corporosity*.

Corpulent.

Corpulent (accent on *cor*) means fleshy, portly.

“He became *corpulent* as he grew older.”

Corral.

Corral (accent on *ral*) means to drive into an enclosure, as live stock; hence, figuratively, to corner.

Correctional.

Correctional means tending to correct or reform; as, a *correctional* institution.

Corrective.

Corrective means removing or counteracting what is wrong.

Patiently waiting with a quiet *corrective* word and gesture here and there.

—*Journal of Education.*

Correlate; Correlation.

Correlate (accent on *late*) is to bring into reciprocal relation; as, to *correlate* natural phenomena. *Correlation* means interconnection.

Corrigible.

Corrigible (accent on *kor*) means capable of amendment; as, a *corrigible* fault.

Corroborate.

Corroborate (accent on *rob*) means to confirm; as, the news has been *corroborated* by later advices.

Corroborate.

Corroborate (accent on *rob*), means to confirm.

“His testimony was *corroborated* in every particular by later witnesses.”

Corrosive.

Corrosive (accent on *ro*), means something that causes to waste away or consume slowly, as by corrosion; often used figuratively.

“The *corrosive* hand of time had seemingly not touched her.”

Cortège.

Cortège (kor-tazh; accent on *tazh*, *a* as in *ate*), means a train of attendants; a procession, as, a funeral *cortège*.

“The king and queen entered, each attended by a brilliant *cortège*.”

Coruscation.

Coruscation (accent on *ca* [*ka*; *a* as in *ate*]), means a flash of brilliant light, hence figuratively, a gleam of intellectual brilliancy.

“The book is interesting, and abounds in delicate *coruscations* of fancy.”

Cosmic.

Cosmic (koz-mik; accent on *koz*), means relating to the universe as a system, or to its laws and order; hence, orderly as opposed to *chaotic*.

How can Dryasdust interpret such things, the dark, chaotic dullard who knows the meaning of nothing *cosmic* or noble, nor ever will know.

—*Carlyle*.

Cosmopolitan.

Cosmopolitan (accent on *pol*), means common to all the world; free from local attachments or prejudices; a citizen of the world.

Since Virgil there have been at most but four *cosmopolitan* authors, Dante, Cervantes, Shakespeare and Goethe.—*Lowell*.

Cosmopolite.

Cosmopolite (accent on *mop*; *i* in *lite* like *i* in *isle*), means a person equally at home any place in the world; one of world-wide travel and experience, a cosmopolitan.

His air was that of a *cosmopolite*

In the wide universe from sphere to sphere.

—*Lowell*.

Coterie.

Coterie (ko-te-ree; accent on *ko*), means a set of persons who meet habitually for any purpose.

The lecture was planned by a *coterie* of well-known club women."

Coup.

Coup (pronounced *koo*), means a master-blow. A French word usually used in various phrases; as, a *coup d'état* (kood-a-ta; *a* in *ta* like *a* in *father*), a stroke of policy.

Counsel for the so-called trust sprang a *coup*.

Covenant.

Covenant (kuv-e-nant, accent on *kuv*), means to enter into an agreement; to bind oneself.

"Let our bankers *covenant* with their consciences that they will not finance any war that is avoidable."

Covert.

Covert (kuv-ert; accent on *kuv*), means concealed, disguised, secret, as a *covert* glance, a *covert* scheme; also, sheltered, as, a *covert*.

Cow.

Cow means to intimidate, to overawe.

To vanquish a people already *cowed*.—*Steele*.

Cower.

Cower means to sink through fear or shame.

She *cowered* low upon the ground,

With wild eyes turned to meet her fate.

—*Morris*.

Coy.

Coy means shy, modest, bashful; also coquetish.

Coy and furtive graces.—*Irving*.

Coyness.

Coyness means feigned or bashful reserve.

When the kind nymph would *coyness* feign

And hides but to be found again.—*Dryden*.

“Her coyness of manner is very unbecoming.”

Crass.

Crass (kras), means thick, coarse-grained, dense; as, *crass* linen; *crass* ignorance. It is now chiefly used of immaterial things.

Does not the thing look *crass* and material, threatening to degrade thy theory of spirit?

—*Emerson*.

Craven.

Craven means cowardly, mean-spirited.

In *craven* fear of the sarcasm of Dorset.

—*Macaulay*.

Credence.

Credence (kre-dens; accent on *kre*; *e* as in *meet*), means belief founded on other sources than personal knowledge.

“The stranger’s tale sounded plausible, and met with ready *credence* in the village.”

Credible.

Credible (accent on *cred*) means worthy of belief; as, a *credible* witness.

Credulity.

Credulity (kre-du-li-ti; accent on *du*; *u* as in *mute*) means in general readiness to believe upon insufficient evidence, especially impossible or absurd things.

“That implicit *credulity* is the mark of a feeble mind will not be disputed.”

Credulous.

Credulous (kred-u-lus; accent on *kred*) means believing on slight evidence; unsuspecting, easily deceived, as, a too *credulous* public.

Crepuscular.

Crepuscular (kre-pus-ku-lar; accent on *pus*) means pertaining to twilight, glimmering.

Crepusculous.

Crepusculous (accent on *pus*) means imperfectly clear.

The beginnings of philosophy were in a *crepusculous* obscurity, and it is yet scarce past the dawn.—*Grawille*.

Crimination.

Crimination means accusation, complaint. *The criminations* and *recriminations* of adverse parties.—*Macaulay*.

Criterion.

Criterion (kri-te-ri-on; accent on *te*, *e* as in *meet*, *i* as in *tie*) means a standard of judging.

“This performance is no *criterion* of what the actress might achieve in a play more suited to her talents.”

Crucial.

Crucial (kroo-shial, *oo* as in *room* [from *Crux*, a cross; see *crux*]) means severe, decisive, as between views or theories.

“Both the great parties are agreed that this [the tariff] is to be the *crucial* question of the campaign.”

Crude.

Crude means unripe, not complete in form; hence lacking in skill, imperfect.

I like it [an idea] to be well seasoned. Were

I to expand it at once it would have something *crude* about it.—*Arnold Bennett*.

Crusade.

Crusade (accent on *sade*) means any vigorous, concerted action for the advancement or defense of a cause; as, a *crusade* against vice.

Crux.

Crux (kruks, *u* as in *tub*) means a cross, specially as an instrument of torture. Hence, anything that puzzles or vexes in a high degree.

“The perpetual *crux* of New Testament chronologists.”

Cryptic.

Cryptic (krip-tik; accent on *krip*) means hidden, occult, not plainly understandable.

Leonardo would have doubled that sum if he could have won the *cryptic* daughter of the proud Gherardini from old Giocondo.

—*Chicago Tribune*.

Cryptogram.

Cryptogram (krip-to-gram; accent on *krip*) is a message of writing in secret characters.

Cryptonym.

Cryptonym (krip-to-nim; accent on *krip*) means a private or hidden name, as, the secret name one bears in some society.

Cuisine.

Cuisine (kwee-zene; accent on *zene*, *e* as in *meet*) means the kitchen, specially the style or quality of cooking.

“The hotel is comfortable, and the *cuisine* is excellent.”

Culinary.

Culinary (ku-li-na-ri; accent on *ku*, *u* as in *mute*, *a* as in *mate*, shortened in rapid utterance) means relating to the kitchen, or to the art of cookery.

"She was famous for her *culinary* skill."

Cull.

Cull means to gather, to pick; as, to *cull* the flowers in one's garden.

Culmen.

Culmen (kul-men; accent on *kul*) means top.

"At the *culmen* or top was a chapel."

Culminate.

Culminate means to reach the highest point either literally or figuratively.

"These successive attacks *culminated* in a severe illness."

Culpable.

Culpable (kul-pa-ble; accent on *kul*) means blamable, censurable.

"The company was found guilty of *culpable* negligence."

Cult.

Cult (kult, *u* as in *but*) means homage, and by extension is applied to any devoted attention to or veneration for a particular person or thing; especially applied to religious belief and rites.

"The leader of the *cult* found himself in conflict with the law."

Cultivable.

Cultivable (kul-ti-va-ble; accent on *kul*) means capable of being tilled or cultivated.

"If it [Tripoli] were all *cultivable* land there would be a great outlet near home for Italian labor."

Cultural.

Cultural relates, specifically, to mental culture, educational, as the dean of *cultural* studies.

Culture.

Culture means preparing the earth for crops; hence, by extension, the systematic improvement of one's mind; learning and taste; as, a man of *culture*.

Cumber.

Cumber (accent on *cum*) means to load excessively or uselessly.

"I do not wish to *cumber* the idea of President Taft [international arbitration] by too much speculation on all that might follow."

Cumbrous.

Cumbrous means unwieldy, clumsy, burdensome, as a *cumbrous* style of composition.

Cumulative.

Cumulative (accent on *cu*) means increasing by successive additions; as *cumulative* evidence.

"The argument is *cumulative* in the fullest sense of that word."

"I cannot help thinking that the indefinable something which we call character is *cumulative*—that the influence of the same climate, scenery and associations for several generations is necessary to its gathering head, and that the process is disturbed by continual change of place."

Cumulous.

Cumulous (ku-mu-lus; accent on *ku*, *u* as in *mute*) means full of heaps, and is applied to clouds.

Cuneiform.

Cuneiform (ku-ne-i-form; accent on *ku* or on *ne*) means wedge-shaped; as, *cuneiform* inscriptions.

Cupidity.

Cupidity (accent on *pid*) means an inordinate desire to possess something.

“The display of jewels aroused his *cupidity*.”

Curative.

Curative means promoting a cure; as, the *curative* power of certain herbs.

Curriculum.

Curriculum (ku-rik-u-lum; accent on *rik*, *u* in *ku* and *lum*, like *u* in *us*; second *u* like *u* in *use*, shortened in rapid utterance) means a course of study in a university, college or school.

Cursive.

Cursive means running, rapid; said of handwriting in which the letters are joined together, as in the ordinary running hand.

Cursory

Cursory (ker-so-ri; accent on *ker*) means hasty, superficial; as, a *cursory* review.

“He made a few *cursory* remarks.”

Curvet.

Curvet (ker-vet; accent on *ker* or on *vet*) means to leap as a horse, to bound.

“A shrewd mischievous imp who *curvets* about the house.”

Custody.

Custody (accent on *cus*) means guardianship; as, the papers are in the *custody* of the district attorney. Also imprisonment, as, “He has been taken into *custody*.”

Cutaneous.

Cutaneous (ku-ta-ne-ous; accent on *ta*; *a* as in *ate*) relates to the skin; as, a *cutaneous* affection.

Cycle.

Cycle (si-kl; accent on *si*; *i* as in *isle*) means any recurring period in which a series of events takes place, a vast period.

“Better fifty years of Europe than a *cycle* of Africa.”

Cyclic.

Cyclic (sik-lik; accent on *sik*; *i* as in *it*) means recurring in cycles. (Si-kels; *i* as in *isle*.)

The *cyclic* aspect of a nation's literary history has been so frequently observed that any reference involves a truism.—*Stedman*.

Cynic.

Cynic (sin-ik; accent as in *sin*) means specifically a person who sneers at disinterestedness and moral worth.

The *cynic* is one who never sees a good quality in a man, and never fails to see a bad one.

—*Beecher*.

Cynical.

Cynical (sin-i-kal; accent on *sin*) means capitious, believing that human conduct is directed by selfish motives.

I hope it is no *cynical* asperity not to confess obligations where no benefit has been derived.

—*Johnson*.

Cynicism.

Cynicism (sin-i-cism; accent on *sin*) means morose and contemptuous views and opinions.

“All his writings are characterized by a *cynicism* born of his restricted life.”

Cynosure.

Cynosure (si-no-shure; *i* as in *isle*; and sin-o-shure; *i* as in *it*, accent on the first syllable in each) means anything that attracts and fixes the attention.

"She was the *cynosure* of all eyes."

Damoclean.

Damoclean (dam-o-kle-an; accent on *kle*) means a condition threatened with extreme peril. It is derived from the story of Damocles who was placed at a banquet with a sword suspended over his head by a single hair.

Dapple.

Dapple means marked with spots; as, a *dapple* horse.

Some *dapple* mists still floated along the peaks of the hills.—*Scott*.

Dastardly.

Dastardly (accent on *das*) means cowardly, base.

"I do not assume that he is aware of the *dastardly* work being done by his agents."

Datum (Data Pl.).

Datum (da-tum, da-ta; accent on *da*; *a* as in *mate*; or *a* as in *ask*) means given facts.

"The city council of Chicago intends to act only upon full *data* and information."

Debacle.

Debacle (accent on *bac*) means specifically the breaking up of ice in a river, due to a sudden rise; hence, a confused rush, a stampede.

Debatable.

Debatable (accent on *ba*) means admitting of argument, questionable.

“The wisdom of framing a certain law may be questioned, but the power of the people to enact the law is not a *debatable* subject.”

Debauchery.

Debauchery (de-bauch-e-ri; accent on *bauch*; *a* as in *all*) means in general corrupting the fidelity of.

“These are the forces that elected him by the *debauchery* of public representation.”

The republic of Paris will endeavor to complete the *debauchery* of the army.—*Burke*.

Debile.

Debile (deb-il, accent on *deb*) means weak, feeble.

A very old, small, *debile* and tragically fortune-tuned man, whom he sincerely pitied.

—*R. L. Stevenson*.

Debility.

Debility (accent on *bil*) means a general lack of bodily strength. (*Infirmity* applies both to bodily and mental weakness.)

Debonair.

Debonair (deb-o-nar; accent on *nar*, *a* as in *fare*) means gay, light-hearted.

So buxom, blithe, and *debonair*.—*Milton*.

Debouch.

Debouch (de-boosh; accent on *boosh*; *oo* as in *food*) means to emerge or pass out, as, the army *debouched* from the wood.

Débris.

Débris (de-bre; accent on *bre*; *e* as in *meet*) means fragments, rubbish, as, the *débris* from the recent fire has been removed.

Début.

Début (da-bu; accent on *bu*; French *u*, or *u* as in *mute*) means first appearance and is used specifically of a first appearance in society or on the stage.

The appearance of this pianist with the Berlin Orchestra marked his professional *début*.

Decade.

Decade (dek-ad; accent on *dek*) means a period of ten years; any group or arrangement of ten. *Decade* is also written *decad*.

Decadal.

Decadal (dek-a-dal; accent on *dek*) means pertaining to tens, consisting of tens.

Decadence.

Decadence (accent on *ka*; *a* as in *ate*) means deterioration, decay.

The old castle where the family lived in their *decadence*.—*Scott*.

Decadent.

Decadent (accent on *ka*; *a* as in *ate*) means falling away.

The Celtic languages are all without exception *decadent*,—the most tenacious of life being the Welsh and the Breton.—*Ency. Brit.*

Decalogue.

Decalogue, meaning the ten commandments, is used loosely to express any short set of rules.

“The Academy of Dancing Masters (Paris) has issued a new *decalogue*.”

Decamp.

Decamp in a general sense means to depart secretly and suddenly.

“The treasurer *decamped* with the funds of the organization.”

Decant.

Decant (accent on *cant*) means to pour off gently, as to *decant* liquor, so as not to disturb the sediment.

Decimate.

Decimate (des-i-mate; accent on *des*) meaning to put to death every tenth man, as, to *decimate* an army, is loosely used to express any great number destroyed.

It [England] had *decimated* itself for a question which involved no principle and led to no result.

—*Froude*.

Decipher.

Decipher (accent on *ci*) means to discover the meaning of by means of a key, or by reading what is obscure or partly obliterated, or by tracing what is difficult to be understood; also, to describe or delineate.

Decorous.

Decorous (de-ko, accent on *ko*; or dek-o, accent on *dek*, rus) means proper, seemly.

These complaints did not furnish even a *decorous* pretext for the war.—*Motley*.

Decorum.

Decorum (de-ko-rum; accent on *ko*) means propriety, formal politeness.

He kept with princes due *decorum*,
Yet never stood in awe before 'em.

—*Swift*.

Decoy.

Decoy (accent on *coy*) means to allure or entice by deception, as, troops *decoyed* into an ambush.

"I had been dragooned, I will not say *decoyed*, into the service of these two gentlemen."

Decrement.

Decrement (dek're-ment) means becoming less, gradually.

“Rocks, mountains and other elevations of the earth suffer a continual *decrement*.”

Decrepit.

Decrepit (accent on *crep*) means broken down, especially from age.

He was already *decrepit* with premature old age.—*Motley*.

Decrepitude.

Decrepitude (accent on *crep*) means broken down by infirmities, either mental or physical, especially the infirmities of age.

Decretory.

Decretory (accent on *dek*) means established by a decree, settled.

The *decretory* rigors of a condemning sentence.—*South*.

Decrial.

Decrial (de-kri-al; accent on *kri*) means a clamorous censure, as, the *decrial* of some public act.

Decry.

Decry (accent on *kri*) means to disparage, to censure as faulty.

For small errors, they whole plays *decry*.
—*Dryden*.

“There are always people who are ready to *decry* the successful man.”

Decuple.

Decuple (dek'u-pl; accent on *dek*; *u* as in *mute*, shortened in rapid utterance) means tenfold; a number repeated ten times.

The demand for cotton goods has probably been *decupled* in the last half century.

Deduce.

Deduce (accent on *duce*) means to derive, to draw as a necessary conclusion.

“The moral to be *deduced* is that we should never allow ourselves to become angry if we value our health or life.”

Defalcate.

Defalcate (de-fal-kate; accent on *fal*) means to default in one's accounts.

Defalcation.

Defalcation (de-fal-ka-shun or def-al-ka-shun; accent on *ka*) means a fraudulent deficiency in money matters.

Defalcator.

Defalcation (de-fal-ka-shun or def-al-ka-shun; means a defaulter, an embezzler.

Defamatory.

Defamatory (accent on *fam*) means calumnious, injurious to a reputation, as, *defamatory* statements.

Defecate.

Defecate (accent on *def*) means to render clear; make free from.

“A simple statement of the facts, it is *defecated* of all passion.”

Defecation.

Defecation (accent on *ca* [*ka*]) means the act or process of rendering clear—of separating from the lees or dregs.

Defection.

Defection (accent on *fec*) means abandonment of allegiance or duty.

"This gain will be more than offset by the *defection* of many progressive Democrats."

Defer.

Defer (accent on *fer*) means to leave to another's judgment, to submit in opinion; also, to postpone.

"The house, *deferring* to legal right, acquiesced." "We have *deferred* our departure."

Deference.

Deference (accent on *def*) means acquiescence in another's opinion in preference to one's own.

"In *deference* to the wishes of the President, the tariff commission report was read first."

Deferential.

Deferential (def-e-ren-shal; accent on *ren*, *e*, second syllable, variable to *u* in rapid utterance) means respectful in manner.

"He awaited, in *deferential* silence, her next words."

Deficit.

Deficit (def-i-sit; accent on *def*) means a deficiency, especially a financial shortage.

"The reading public is not anxious to have the *deficit* of the postal department shifted over to the publishers."

Definable.

Definable (de-fin-a-bl; accent on *fin*, *i* as in *finc*) means capable of being defined, determinable; as, words easily *definable*; *definable* distinctions.

Definitive.

Definitive (accent on *fin*, *i* as in *pin*) means positive, final, as opposed to conditional.

"In this case the court's sentence is *definitive*."

Definitude.

Definitude (accent on *fin*) means precision, exactitude.

"The attorney marshaled his facts with the *definitude* of mathematical representation."

Deflection.

Deflection means a turning from the true or right course.

"His *deflection* of conduct in this instance had become a matter of general comment among his friends."

Deforestation.

Deforestation (accent on *ta*) means cutting away the forest of a region.

"The government is endeavoring to curb reckless *deforestation*."

Defray.

Defray (accent on *fray*) means to meet the expenses of.

"The expense of the investigation was *defrayed* by the county."

Deft.

Deft means dexterous or skillful.

With so sure a hand and so *deft* a touch.

—D. G. Mitchell.

Defunct.

Defunct (accent on *funct*) means dead, extinct.

"The president of the *defunct* bank has been apprehended."

Delectable.

Delectable (accent on *lek*) means delightful, especially to any of the senses.

Delectable both to behold and taste.—Milton.

Delectably.

Delectably (accent on *lek*) means charmingly, delightfully.

“The old clothes press smells *delectably* of lavender.”

Delectation.

Delectation (dec-lek-ta-shun; accent on *ta*) means great delight.

“The entertainment was planned for your especial *delectation*.”

Deleterious.

Deleterious (del-e-te-ri-us; accent on *te*, *e* as in meet) means hurtful, pernicious.

“Lack of proper ventilation is *deleterious* to health.”

Delineable.

Delineable (de-lin-e-a-bl; accent on *lin*) means capable of being sketched or portrayed.

In either vision there is something not *delineable*.—*Feltham*.

Delineament.

Delineament (accent on *lin*) means a graphic sketch, a picture.

“In the hero of this book is presented a fair *delineament* of a great character.”

Deliquesce.

Deliquesce (del-i-kwes; accent on *kwes*) means to dissolve gradually, or melt away.

Whose whole vocabulary had *deliquesced* into some half dozen expressions.—*O. W. Holmes*.

Delocalize.

Delocalize (accent on *lo*) means to widen the scope or interest of.

“The movement, originating in a small city, was quickly *delocalized*, and finally became national in scope.”

Delusory.

Delusory (accent on *lu*, *u* as in *mute*) means deceptive, beguiling.

These *delusory* false pretenses which have neither truth nor substance in them.—*Prynne*.

Delve.

Delve means to dig; hence, figuratively to carry on a continued research.

Not in cells where frigid learning *delves*
In Aldine folios mouldering on their shelves.
—*O. W. Holmes*.

Demagogue.

Demagogue, meaning a leader of the people, as now used generally conveys the idea of an unprincipled, popular orator; a political agitator.

"These confessions reveal him as he is, a shifty, false-hearted *demagogue*."

Demarcation.

Demarcation (de-mar-ka-shon; accent on *ka*, *e* as in *meet*) means determining the relative limits of anything.

"The line of *demarcation* between sea and sky was not easily *definable*."

Demean.

Demean (accent on *mean*) means to behave, carry, and is used reflexively. It is also used in the sense of debase, lower the dignity of; a use not sanctioned by careful writers.

"They *demeaned* themselves like heroes."

Demeanor.

Demeanor means behavior, carriage; as, a sad *demeanor*.

The men, as usual, liked her artless kindness and simple, refined *demeanor*.—*Thackeray*.

Demented.

D. mented (accent on *ment*) means of unsound mind; as, a *demented* person.

Dementia.

Dementia (de-men-shi-a; accent on *men*) means insanity, idiocy.

“The patient was found to be suffering from acute *dementia*.”

Demesne.

Demesne (de-men; accent on *men*, *e* as in *meet*) means an estate in land; more properly, that part of the estate attached to the mansion where the owner resides.

Demise.

Demise (accent on *mise*) means death.

“After the king’s *demise*, foreigners found less favor at court.”

Demolition.

Demolition (dem-o-lish-on; accent on *lish*) means overthrowing, destroying.

“They resent the *demolition* of long-cherished tradition.”

Demonstrate, Demonstrating.

The accent in *demonstrate* (*ed*, *ing*) is on *mon* or *dem*.

Demonstrable, Demonstrative, Demonstrativeness.

The accent in *demonstrable*, *demonstrative* (*tively*, *tiveness*) is on *mon*.

Demonstration.

The accent in *demonstration* is on *stra* (*a* as in *ate*).

Demur.

Demur (accent on *mur*; *u* as *e* in *her*) means to object irresolutely.

If he accepts it, why should you *demur*?

—*Browning.*

Demure.

Demure (accent on *mure*; *u* as in *mute*) means staid, grave; sometimes affectedly decorous.

With countenance *demure* and modest grace.

—*Spenser.*

Denizen.

Denizen (den-e-z'n; accent on *den*) means an inhabitant; as, *denizens* of the forest, *denizens* of the ghetto.

Dénouement.

Dénouement (da-no-mon; accent on *no* or on *mon*, *a* as in *fate*, *o* as in *move*, *n*, nasalized) means the outcome, issue; the unraveling of a plot.

"His nerves, which were at a high tension during the trial, collapsed completely at the unexpected *dénouement*."

Denude.

Denude (accent on *nude*) means to strip of all covering.

"The trees are *denuded* of their leaves."

Denunciative.

Denunciative (de-nun si or shi-a-tive; accent on *nun*) means ready to denounce; accusing.

"His speeches are strongly *denunciative* of a former administration."

Depict.

Depict (accent on *pict*) means to portray.

"Fear was depicted on their faces."

Deplete.

Deplete (accent on *plete*) means to reduce or exhaust; as, to *deplete* a country of its resources.

Deploy.

Deploy (accent on *ploy*) means to move so as to present a more extended front; as, a column of troops *deployed* to present a line to an enemy.

Deponent.

Deponent (accent on *po*) means one who testifies, usually under oath.

“The testimony of others confirmed that of the *deponent*.”

Deport.

Deport (accent on *port*) means to transport, especially by force; also, to behave (with a reflexive pronoun).

“How did the prisoner *deport* himself?”

Deprecate.

Deprecate (dep-re-kate; accent on *dep*) means to express regret for, to disapprove strongly. Also, to pray that a threatened evil may be averted.

Both parties *deprecated* war.—*Lincoln*.

Deprecatory.

Deprecatory (accent on *dep*) means, in its most frequent use, apologetic. The word also means tending to avert an evil by prayer; as, *deprecatory* prayers.

Presently came the sound of voices, Lem's

deep and insistent, and another, pitched in a high nasal key, *deprecatory* and protesting.

—*Churchill*.

Depreciatory.

Depreciatory (de-pre-shi-a-to-ri; accent on *pre*; *e* as in *meet*) means lessening the value of.

“The rumors of war had a *depreciatory* effect upon stocks.”

Depredation.

Depredation (accent on *da*) means plundering, waste; as, the *depredations* committed by the invading army.

Depute.

Depute (accent on *pute*) means to appoint as a substitute.

“The secretary has been *deputed* to speak for the president.”

Deracinate.

Deracinate (de-ras-i-nate; accent on *ras*) means to extirpate, to pluck up by the roots.

“The new party is expected to *deracinate* all the present political evils.”

Derange.

Derange (accent on *range*) means to throw into confusion, to disturb the normal action of; as a mind *deranged* by grief.

Derelict.

Derelict, v. (accent on *der*) means neglectful of duties.

Derelict, n., means that which is abandoned.

* * * a horrible midway void, peopled by *derelicts*.—*Chambers*.

Deride.

Deride (accent on *ride*) means to make sport of.

“His efforts to effect peace were *derided* by both factions.”

Derision.

Derision (de-rizh-on; accent on *rizh*) means held up to ridicule or scorn; as, to be held in *derision*.

Derisive.

Derisive (de-ri-siv; accent on *ri*; *i* as in *mite*) means mocking, scornful.

“His statement was greeted with shouts of *derisive* laughter.”

Derogatory.

Derogatory (accent on *rog*) means detracting, injurious; as, *derogatory* statements.

Descant.

Descant (accent on *cant* [kant]) means to make copious and varied comments.

“He *descanted* on the various subjects.”

Descry.

Descry (accent on *cry*) means to discover with the eye, to get a sight of; as, to *descry* ships in the distance.

Déshabille. (See *Dishabille*.)

Desideratum. (Pl. *Desiderata*.)

Desideratum (de-sid-e-ra-tum; accent on *ra*; *a* as in *mate*) means something desired.

To correct this inconvenience has long been a *desideratum* in that art.—*Paley*.

Despite.

Despite (des-pite; accent on *pite*) means notwithstanding, in defiance of.

"We shall go *despite* the inclemency of the weather."

Desuetude.

Desuetude (des-we-tude; accent on *des*) means disuse.

"Many words have fallen into *desuetude*."

Desultory.

Desultory (accent on *des*) means immethodical, irregular.

"His reading was of the most *desultory* character."

Deter.

Deter (accent on *ter*) means to prevent from acting by the fear of consequences.

"Even the fear of punishment did not *deter* him from carrying out his decision."

Determinism.

Determinism (de-ter-min-ism; accent on the *ter*) means a doctrine that volition is necessarily decided by antecedent causes acting by necessity; fatalism (also called physical determinism). (b) The doctrine that motives certainly decide volition, though the decision is voluntary or without compulsion (also called philosophical determinism), and by its adherents held not to be fatalistic. 2. In a loose sense, necessity.

Major Barbara is Shaw's presentment, as Socialist, of the problem of social *determinism*.

—Henderson.

Deterrent.

Deterrent (accent on *ter*) means that which prevents; as, the news acted as a *deterrent*.

Detestation.

Detestation (det-es-ta-shun; accent on *ta*; *a* as in *ate*; *e* in *det*) means extreme dislike or hatred; as, *detestation* of sin.

Detonation.

Detonation (det-o-na-shun; accent on *na*; *e* in *det* like *e* in *end*; *a* as in *mate*) means an explosion or sudden report.

"The *detonation* was felt at a distance of several miles."

Détour.

Détour (day-toor; accent on *toor*; *o* as in *move*) means a roundabout way.

"They made a wide *détour*, emerging at the north gate."

De trop.

De trop (de tro; *e* as in *epistle*; *o* as in *no*) means not wanted.

"I felt decidedly *de trop*."

Detriment.

Detriment (accent on *det*) means anything that injures; as, *detriment* to property; *detriment* to morals.

Deviate.

Deviate (accent on *de*; *e* as in *meet*) means to diverge, to turn aside; as, to *deviate* from the strict truth.

Devious.

Devious (accent on *de*; *e* as in *meet*) means out of the direct way; straying from the path of rectitude; as *devious* ways, *devious* methods.

Devise.

Devise (de-vize; accent on *vize*) means to contrive; to will.

"A plan must be *devised* to meet these conditions."

Devoir.

Devoir (dev-wor; accent on *wor*) means an act of civility or respect.

"We paid our *devoirs* to our host."

Devotee.

Devotee (dev-o-tee; accent on *tee*) means a votary; an extravagantly devout person; as, cult *devotees*.

Dexterity.

Dexterity (accent on *ter*) means manual skill; ease in physical activity, mental quickness.

"He parried the question with great *dexterity*."

Dexterous, dextrous.

Dexterous, dextrous (accent on *dex*) means skilful or adroit.

His *dextrous* wit.—*Dryden*.

Dialectic.

Dialectic, n. (di-a-lek-tic; accent on *lek*; *i* in *di* like *i* in *isle*) means logic in general; the logic of disputatious argument.

Indulging in his penchant for *dialectic*, Shaw

here turns advocate, and argues the case with all the surety of the lawyer, the art of the litterateur.—*Henderson*.

Dialectic, a., means pertaining to dialect, pertaining to logic; argumentative.

Diapason.

Diapason (di-a-pa-son; accent on *pa*; *a* as in *male*; *i* as in *mite*) means an octave; a scale by which instrument makers adjust their instruments. Hence, figuratively, fundamental harmony, universal concord; as, the *diapason* of the spheres.

From harmony, from heavenly harmony,
This universal frame began;
From harmony to harmony
Through all the compass of the notes it ran.
The *diapason* closing full in man.—*Dryden*.

Diatribes.

Diatribes (di-a-tribe; accent on *di*; *i* as in *isle*) means specifically a bitter and violent criticism.

"Her *diatribes* against intellectual people were the result of a narrow outlook upon life."

Diction.

Diction (dik-shun; accent on *dik*) means the use of words.

"His *diction* was marked by elegance of style."

Dictum. (Pl. Dicta.)

Dictum (dik-tum; accent on *dik*) means an authoritative saying; as, the *dictum* of fashion.

Didactic.

Didactic (di-dak-tik; *i* as in *it*; accent on *dak*) means instructive, expository; as, a *didactic* poem.

Dietary.

Dietary (di-e-ta-ri; accent on *di*; *i* as in *mite*) means pertaining to diet; as, *dietary* treatment.

Differentiate.

Differentiate (dif-e-ren-shi-ate; accent on *ren*) means to constitute a difference between; to acquire a distinct character.

Venetian art, as soon as it began to show itself in forms of pictorial convention, began to *differentiate* from all other Italian art.

—*Stillman*.

Diffident.

Diffident (accent on *dif*) means shy, not confident; as, a *diffident* manner.

Diffuse.

Diffuse, v. (di-fuz; accent on *fuz*; *u* as in *mute*) means to disseminate, to spread; as, to *diffuse* knowledge.

Diffuse, a. (di-fus; accent on *fus*) means widely spread. Specifically, means prolix, verbose as applied to style.

Digress.

Digress (di-gress; accent on *gress*; *i* as in *it* or as in *isle*) means to turn aside, especially to turn from the main subject in speaking or writing.

To return to the point from which we have *digressed*.—*Morley*.

Dilate.

Dilate (accent on *late*; *i* as in *it* or as in *isle*) means to expand, to enlarge upon.

"He *dilated* upon the sufferings of his early days."

Dilatory.

Dilatory (accent on *dil*) means tardy, not prompt; as, a *dilatory* correspondent.

Dilemma.

Dilemma (di-lem-a; accent on *lem*; *i* as in *it* or as in *isle*) means a state in which the alternatives appear equally undesirable.

"He could see no way out of his *dilemma*."

Dilettante Dilettant).

Dilettante (dil-e-tan-te; accent on *tan*; *a* as in *ask*; *e* in *te* like *e* in *end*) means an admirer or lover of the fine arts, science, or letters; also an amateur; one who pursues an art or literature desultorily and for amusement.

Dilettant (dil-e tant; accent on *tant*) is another spelling of the foregoing word. Both *dilettantism* and *dilettante*, with their variant spellings, are often used in a disparaging sense for a superficial, an affected dabbler in art.

Dilettantism.

Dilettantism (dil-e-tan-tism; accent on *tan*; *as* as in *ask*) means the quality characteristic of a dilettante.

Dilettanteism.

Dilettanteism (dil-e-tan-te-ism; accent on *tan*; *e* in *te* like *e* in *end*) is another spelling of the foregoing word.

Diminution.

Diminution (dim-i-nu-shon; accent on *nu*; *u* as in *mute*) means lessening.

“The net result has been that there is no *diminution* of their power to control markets.”

Diminutive.

Diminutive (accent on *min*) means little, contracted, as a *diminutive* person.

Diplomatic.

Diplomatic (accent on *mat*) means artful, shrewd, politic in conduct; also, relating to foreign ministers who are called the *diplomatic* body.

Dire.

Dire means ill-boding, terrible; as, *dire* news, in *dire* distress.

Dirigible.

Dirigible (dir-i-jī-bl; accent on *dir*) means that may be steered or directed; as, a *dirigible* balloon.

Disavow.

Disavow (accent on *vow*) means to repudiate, to disclaim.

“The governor is expected to *disavow* any connection with the new party.”

Disburse.

Disburse (accent on *burse*) means to pay out, to expend, usually referring to public moneys.

Disciplinary.

Disciplinary (accent on *dis*) means promoting orderly conduct; as, *disciplinary* laws. Specifically used to denote self-inflicted torture, as a penance.

Disconcert.

Disconcert (accent on *ceri*) means to confuse, to disturb the composure of.

"The candidate was *disconcerted* by this unexpected move."

Discordant.

Discordant (accent on *cord*) means clashing, incongruous.

"This resolution was the first *discordant* note in the convention."

Discourse (v).

Discourse, v. (accent on *course*) means to converse in a formal manner, to expatiate.

"He *discoursed* at length on a subject."

Discourse (n).

Discourse, n. (accent on *course*) means connected communication of thought.

Discrimination

Discrimination (accent on *na*; *a* as in *mate*) means noting differences, distinguishing accurately.

A fine *discrimination* as to literary values went hand in hand with Lang's eminent catholicity.—*Gunsaulus*.

Discursive

Discursive (dis-ker-sive; accent on *ker*) means rambling, digressive.

"The minister was sometimes *discursive*."

Disgorge.

Disgorge (dis-gorj; accent on *gorj*) means to emit, discharge—generally with violence. To make restitution; as of stolen goods.

“The prisoner *disgorged* much valuable plunder.”

Dishabille.

Dishabille (dis-a-beel; accent on *beel*) means negligent dress.

“Madame appeared at once, apologizing for her *dishabille*.”

Dishevel.

Dishevel (di-shev-el; accent on *shev*), originally meaning disarrangement of the hair, is now used to express a disordered appearance.

“‘He’s gone,’ exclaimed the *disheveled* man.”

Disingenuous.

Disingenuous (dis-in-jen-u-us; accent on *jen*) means not frank, open, or candid.

“His speech was a *disingenuous* avoidance of the true issue.”

Disparage.

Disparage (dis-par-aj; accent on *par*) means to undervalue, to vilify. It is used only of things; as, to *disparage* a man’s work.

Disparity.

Disparity (accent on *par*) means essential difference, too unlike for comparison; as, *disparity* in the ages of two persons.

Dispassionately.

Dispassionately (accent on *pas*) means cool, calm, free from prejudice.

“He spoke *dispassionately* of the distressing occurrence.”

Disport.

Disport (accent on *port*) means to play, to move in gayety, without restraint.

“The children were *disporting* in the water at the time.”

Disputable.

Disputable (accent on *pu* or on *dis*) means not absolutely certain, open to dispute.

“His statement concerning the matter is, at least, *disputable*.”

Disputatious.

Disputatious (accent on *ta*) means given to controversy.

“In his college days he was *disputatious*.”

Disquisition.

Disquisition (dis-kwi-zish-un; accent on *zish*) means a formal discussion or treatise; as, a *disquisition* on the Old Testament.

Disrepute.

Disrepute (accent on *pute*) means loss of reputation, discredit.

“The old methods have fallen into *disrepute*.”

“The colony was fast falling into *disrepute*.”

Dissemble.

Dissemble (accent on *sem*) means to give a false impression, to mask the truth.

“He *dissembled* his ambition to hold office, but worked quietly to that end.”

Disseminate.

Disseminate (accent on *sem*) means to scatter, to spread by diffusion.

“His doctrines became *disseminated* among the masses.”

Dissension.

Dissension (accent on *sen*) means discord, strife.

“The *dissensions* in the old organization have resulted in the formation of a new party.”

Dissertation.

Dissertation (accent on *ta*) means a written treatise, an elaborate discourse; as, a *dissertation* on the tariff.

Dissimilitude.

Dissimilitude (dis-i-mil-i-tude; accent on *mil*) means unlike, want of resemblance.

“The greatest *dissimilitude* of the two platforms exists in their respective tariff planks.”

Dissimulate.

Dissimulate (accent on *sim*) means to feign, to pretend; or, to conceal by feigning; as, to *dissimulate* anger.

Dissolute.

Dissolute (accent on *dis*) means loose in behavior, devoted to pleasure and dissipation.

“The sailor’s parrot was a *dissolute* bird, judging from his language.”

Dissonance.

Dissonance (accent on *dis*) means discord, incongruousness.

In Yokohama, what had struck her most was the curious composite, the jumbled *dissonance* of East and West.—*Reveres*.

Distract.

Distract (dis-tra; accent on *tra*; *a* as in *mate*) means absentminded, inattentive.

She stood pensive, *distract*, as he tied the boat.
—*Chambers*.

Distraught.

Distraught (accent on *traught* [*trot*; *o* as in *nor*]) means distracted, bewildered.

“*Distraught* ministers, from time to time, have implored the Emperor to lessen the candor of his words.”

Diurnal.

Diurnal (di-ur-nal; accent on *ur*; *i* as in *isle*) means pertaining to day as opposed to *nocturnal*, *night*.

Divagation.

Divagation (di-va-ga-shun; accent on *ga*; *i* in *di* as *i* in *isle*) means a digression.

“The article was long and marked by several charming *divagations*.”

Divers.

Divers (di-verz; accent on *di*; *i* as in *isle*) means several, but not a great many.

“*Divers* theories were advanced.”

Diverse.

Diverse (di-vers; accent on *vers* or on *di*; *i* as in *isle*) means essentially different, in different directions; as, *diverse* methods, *diverse* paths.

Diversion.

Diversion (accent on *ver*; *i* in *di* as *i* in *it*; *sion* like *shun*) means a turning into a different direction; that which turns the mind from care.

"The drama is her greatest *diversion*."

Divertisement.

Divertisement (di-ver-tiz-ment; accent on *ver*; *i* in *di* as *i* in *it*) means amusement, recreation.

"Thanks to the activities of several aldermen, there was an abundance of oratorical *divertisement* for those present."

Divulge.

Divulge (accent on *vulge*) means to disclose, to make public.

"It was stipulated that the donor's name should never be *divulged*."

Docile.

Docile (dos-il; accent on *dos*; *o* as in *on*; or do-sil; accent on *do*; *o* as in *no*) means amiable, easily managed; as, a *docile* child.

Doctrinaire.

Doctrinaire (accent on *naire*) means (a.) theoretical, visionary; as, *doctrinaire* views; (n.) an impractical theorist; as, the leader of the movement is a *doctrinaire*.

Doggerel.

Doggerel (accent on *dog*) means burlesque poetry, mean, paltry verse.

“The campaign song is mere *doggerel*.”

Dogma.

Dogma (accent on *dog*) means an established doctrine, a settled principle.

“It was with him a *dogma* that to succeed one must be honest.”

Dogmatic.

Dogmatic (accent on *mat*) means inclined to express positive opinions in an arrogant manner or without producing convincing evidence.

“The orator attacked his subject in a bold, *dogmatic* fashion.”

Dogmatize.

Dogmatize (accent on *dog*) means to speak dogmatically, to declare peremptorily.

“He was always inclined to *dogmatize*.”

Dolorous.

Dolorous (dol-o-rus; accent on *dol*; *o* as in *on*) means sorrowful, mournful, dismal.

Domesticity.

Domesticity (do-mes-tis-i-ti; accent on *tis*) means fond of home and its affairs.

“The undesirable feature of a traveler’s life is its want of *domesticity*.”

Domicile.

Domicile (dom-i-sil; accent on *dom*) means (n.) a fixed residence, (v.) to establish a fixed residence.

“They are now *domiciled* on the Pacific coast.”

Donor.

Donor (accent on *do*, *o* as in *no*) means one who makes a gift to another person, or to an institution.

“The trustees decided that the issue of site was vital and could not be decided offhand by a *donor*, however generous.”

Dormant.

Dormant (accent on *dor*) means sleeping; inactive; hibernating.

“The plants in this catalog marked with a star are *dormant*.”

Dotage.

Dotage (do-taj; accent on *do*; *o* as in *old*) means weakness of mind in old age; also, extravagant fondness.

“His actions would indicate that he is already in his *dotage*.”

Dotard.

Dotard (accent on *do*; *o* as in *old*) means a person in his second childhood. One who lavishes extravagant affection.

“In matters requiring judgment he acts like a *dotard*.”

Dote.

Dote means to be excessively fond of anything; as, to *dote* on the opera; also, to be silly; as, *doting* old age.

Douceur.

Douceur: (do-ser; accent on *ser*; *o* as in *move*) means a gift intended as a bribe.

"He declined the gift, fearing it was offered as a *douceur* to secure his influence."

Douche.

Douche (dosh; *o* as in *move*) means a current of water suddenly turned on the body; hence, by extension, a sudden check.

"Optimistic hopes regarding the new ambassador received a cold *douche* by the announcement of further additions to the navies of both empires."

Doughty.

Doughty (accent on *dough*; *ou* like *ou* in *out*) means valiant, courageous, strong; as, the *doughty* colonel.

Draconic.

Draconic (accent on *con* [kon]) means rigorous, inflexible. The term is derived from Draco, the Athenian law-giver noted for the severity of the penalties inflicted.

"The new milk ordinance promises to be *Draconic*."

Dragoon.

Dragoon (accent on *goon*) means to coerce, to threaten into submission.

"I was *dragooned* into joining the expedition."

Drama.

Drama (accent on *dram*; *a* as in *father*) means a composition, in either prose or poetry, to be acted on the stage.

Dramaturgic.

Dramaturgic (dram-a-ter-jik; accent on *ter*; *a* in *dram*, like *a* in *at*) means pertaining to dramaturgy.

Dramaturgy.

Dramaturgy (accent on *tur*) means dramatic composition and representation.

Drastic.

Drastic means powerful, forceful.

"*Drastic* measures were adopted to compel delegates to vote solidly for a third state ticket."

Droll.

Droll (*o* as in *note*) means laughable, comical, funny; as, a *droll* saying.

Drollery.

Drollery (accent on *dro*; *o* as in *note*) means waggishness, funny ways or speech.

"He was noted for his *drollery*."

Drone.

Drone means (n.) an idler; a dull, monotonous sound; (v.) to read in a slow, dull manner.

And the reader *droned* from the pulpit.

—*Longfellow*.

Dross.

Dross (*o* as in *not*) means waste matter, hence, figuratively, any worthless thing.

Facts are the mere *dross* of history.

—*Macaulay*.

Dual.

Dual (accent on *du*; *u* as in *mute*) means two-fold, expressing two; as, a *dual* existence.

Dubious.

Dubious (accent on *du*; *u* as in *use*) means doubtful, questionable; as a *dubious* affair.

Ductile.

Ductile (duk-til; accent on *duk*) means yielding, tractable, pliant, easily drawn out; as, *ductile* metal, a *ductile* mind.

Dudgeon.

Dudgeon (duj-on; *o* as in *son*) means anger, indignation, sullen resentment.

"He returned from the meeting in high *dudgeon* over his defeat."

Dulcet.

Dulcet (dul-set; accent on *dul*) means sweet, harmonious, pleasing to any of the senses or the mind; as, *dulcet* notes, *dulcet* fruit, *dulcet* philosophy.—*B. Jonson*.

Dullard.

Dullard (accent on *dul*) means stupid, slow to perceive.

"My *dullard* brain cannot grasp it."

Duplicity.

Duplicity means double-dealing; as, his *duplicity* was finally uncovered.

Durance.

Durance (du-rans; accent on *du*; *u* as in *mute*) means personal restraint, imprisonment; as, in *durance* vile.

Duress.

Duress (du-res; accent on *du* or on *res*) means constraint through force or fear, compulsion; chiefly used in law.

Dynamics.

Dynamics (di-nam-iks; accent on *nam*; *i* in *di* like *i* in *isle*) means the mathematical theory of force; the moving moral or physical forces, or the laws that relate to them.

The science of motion is divided into two parts: the accurate description of motion, and the investigation of the circumstances under which particular motions take place. . . . That part of the science which tells us about the circumstances under which particular motions take place is called *dynamics*.

Dynamics are again divided into two branches: the study of those circumstances under which it is possible for a body to remain at rest is called statics; and the study of the circumstances of actual motion is called kinetics.

—*W. K. Clifford*.

[What is here called kinetics has until recently been called dynamics.]

These are then appropriately followed by the *dynamics* of the subject, or the institution in action in many grave controversies and many acute crises of history.—*Atlantic Monthly*.

Dynamics of music is the science of the variation and contrast of force or loudness in musical sounds.

Dynamic.

Dynamic by extension is applied to mental, moral, or spiritual conditions.

* * * nothing so *dynamic* as the hopelessness that hopes.—*Phillips*.

